BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ATIC

SUPPLEMENT TO

THE BOMBAY GAZETTE

BOMBAY:—MONDAY, APRIL 2, 1877.

VICEREGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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THE Council met on Wednesday, 21st ultimo, at Government House, Calcutta. Present:—His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, presiding; His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, the Hon'ble Sir Arthur Hobhouse, Q.C., K.C.S.I., the Hon'ble Sir E. C. Bayley, K.C.S.I., the Hon'ble Sir Alexander Arbuthnot, K.C.S.I., the Hon'ble Sir Andrew Clarke, the Hon'ble Sir John Strachey, K.C.S.I., the Hon'ble Sir Edwin Johnson, K.C.B., the Hon'ble T. C. Hope, the Hon'ble David Cowie, the Hon'ble Maharaja Narendra Krishna, the Hon'ble J. R. Bullen Smith, the Hon'ble F. R. Cockerell, the Hon'ble B. Colvin, the Hon'ble Mr. Egerton, and the Hon'ble Maharaja Jotendra Mohan Tagor.

BUDGET DEBATE.

The Hon'ble Mr. Colvin moved that the Bill to amend the law relating to assignments from the General Provincial Fund established under the North-Western Provinces Local Rates Act, 1871, be referred to a Select Committee; and also that the Bill for the licensing of certain trades and dealings in the North-Western Provinces be referred to a Select Committee. He said that, although the question thus brought before the Council related to only one of the two Bills which had been introduced by his hon. friend, the Member for the Financial Department, on Thursday last, it would perhaps be more convenient, and also save the time of the Council, if he dealt with them both together in the remarks he was about to make. Both the measures which had been proposed were in furtherance of the scheme for throwing on the local Governments the responsibility of undertaking their own local works, and for that purpose only. He should not have thought it necessary to do this, but that from what he had seen and heard of the comments which had been made, he was under the impression that some people imagined that these Bills were in some way connected with other schemes for the alteration in the customs tariff and further measures which had been mentioned by his hon. friend on that occasion, and not solely with the view to the extension of provincial public works. He wished to remove this misapprehension as far as he could. These Bills, with which he had been connected from the commencement, related solely and entirely to the extension of provincial estimates of works. The first of the two was for this object, to enable the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces to appropriate a certain portion of the funds under the Local Rates Act towards works of general or provincial utility. The principle of applying these funds in this way was already recognized in the Act, as any part of the assignment made to these districts, which might remain unexpended, might be appropriated to the general provincial fund, and the whole sum levied was thrown into a common provincial fund. Besides, the Lieutenant-Governor had power under a certain section of the Act to apportion the cost of any work which might benefit one or more districts among the districts which were thus affected, and all that the Bill before the Council proposed to do, was to extend these powers expressly to the case of such canals and railways as had been declared, with the sanction of His Excellency in Council, to be works of general provincial utility—that was to say, works which came within the spirit and intention, if not within the actual letter, of the existing law. The powers conferred by the Bill would be optional. It was hoped by the enhancement of the profits from those works which were reproductive, by further taxation, to which he would allude presently, and by other improvements within its means, the local Government would be able perhaps to undertake the charges which had been laid upon it, without having recourse to this measure at all. In any case, supposing this should be necessary, the amount it was empowered to take was limited to ten per cent. upon the total sum levied. The remaining ninety per cent. would leave an ample margin to meet all charges on account of all grants which had at present to be met by the local Government. The changes made by the Bill were so trifling that they did not appear to him to require any further remark. He would proceed now to the License Tax, which it was in contemplation to impose in the North-Western Provinces. When first the scheme for placing local works under the control of the local Government was suggested, and it became evident that further funds would be necessary, a number of the most experienced officers in the North-Western Provincess had been consulted as to the best way of raising that money. There was a general unanimity in the opinions given by all the officers who were consulted. In the first place there was a strong and general disinclination to add anything to the burdens already borne by the agricultural community. There was also a universal conviction that it was both just and expedient to tax the non agricultural community. It was well known that at present they contributed remarkably little to the public revenue, except in such towns as had the octroi. At the same time the non agricultural community were amongst those who enefitted especially from the class of works which it ow proposed to transfer to the local Government. case of any famine or scarcity, the brunt of the full of the calamity fell chiefly on the poorer classes living in towns. It seemed only reasonable then that, when canals and railways were provided, which by ensuring the supply of food, and providing the means of transport for it, and thereby greatly diminishing, if not wholly averting, the danger of famine, those particular classes that most especially benefitted should at least contribute something towards them. As to the mode of levying contributions from them there was a general consensus of opinion that the best form would be that of a Lincense Tax. It was accordingly in this shape that it was now proposed to levy the tax. The Bill as now introduced borrowed all its principal features from the Bill which had formerly been introduced by Mr. Inglis. That Bill, though it had passed through committee, never took the shape of law, but solely for this reason, that the local Government determined at that time that it would be able to meet its financial requirements without having recourse to extra taxation. The Bill now before the Council also bore a strong resemblance to one which had been introduced so far back as 1862, when Mr. Laing was the Financial Member of the Government. That Bill also imposed a low and fixed rate of fees to be paid by all traders. These two Bills, however, the one introduced by Mr. Inglis and that introduced by Mr. Laing, were intended to be supplementary to the Income Tax; it was to be imposed simultaneously with the Income Tax. The present Bill differs from these two in this essential respect, that it was to be the only tax which was to be imposed at present, and the necessary addition to the revenue was to be levied by a scale of fixed fees, which it was hoped would do away with the necessity for any inquisition into incomes, against which very strong objections had been expressed and felt. For the purpose of determining the rates at which the fees are to be charged, the whole body of traders had been divided into three broad classes. In this respect they followed Mr. Inglis' Bill, as they did also in the general grouping of trades under their respective classes. Great pains had been taken at the time to make this as complete as it could be, and it seemed the safest course to follow to adopt it as it stood. It was possible of course that in Committee some amendments and improvements might be suggested, but generally they had followed the classification of Mr. Inglis' Bill. In one point, however, it had been necessary in some degree to alter the arrangement of classes which was then made. It had been thought desirable to introduce grades, and make a scale of fees ranging over a wider extent than that of the former Bill. The reasons for this were, in the first place, that the amount which would be levied by a uniform scale of fees as low as they were originally pitched would be quite insufficient to meet the requirements of the Government. It was admitted on all hands now that the estimate then made of the possible yield of that tax was probably greatly overrated. Further, the reason for introducing grades was this, that with fixed rates of fees it must be remembered that each grade must be so determined that it did not bear hardly upon the poorest men who came within the grade. It followed as a necessary consequence from this that the richer men who came within that grade would not pay a proportionate amount unless more than three grades were introduced. This had accordingly been done, and it was hoped that it would have the effect of making the tax both fair and more equitable, and also of producing a larger revenue. In order to prevent the tax from pressing unduly on any individual, a limit of two per cent. on the annual earning had been fixed. But it must be understood distinctly that this limit was a maximum rate, beyond which the assessment was not to go. It was not the standard for determining the rate upon which a person was to be charged. In the case of wealthy traders it certainly would not be an excessive rate, and he for one would be very glad to see a fee imposed at a rate going up to two per cent. But it was beyond dispute that any percentage fell heaviest upon people with low means; that it was easier for the wealthier man to pay a sum which after all was not a higher percentage than it was for a man whose income did not exceed Rs. 200 or Rs. 300, and he had reason to believe that as a matter of fact the local Government had no intention of allowing these fees to reach so high a rate as two per cent. on all classes of traders. A minor change which had been introduced in the present Bill was that an appeal was allowed to the Commissioner. In Mr. Inglis' Bill no appeal had been allowed. But it had been thought desirable, as the amount with which any man could be charged was considerably higher than it was then proposed, to allow of one appeal in case of any person being dissatisfied, so that the matter should go before two separate officers. Sections 17 and 18 of the Bill had been adopted as they stood from Mr. Inglis' Bill. They were inserted there with the intention of utilizing Municipalities in the collection of taxes, and it had been thought they might be found useful for this purpose now. They had accordingly been retained, and it would be a matter for the discretion of the local Government to avail itself of them, or not, as might be found convenient. He had now noticed the only two points in the two Bills which were introduced on Thursday last that seemed to him to require any comment at present. He had only this much further to add, that all that had been done in connection with them had been done in communication with the Government of the North-Western Provinces, and that the Lieutenant-Governor had expressed his entire concurrence in the measure they were intended to further, and his cordial approval of the principles contained in the Bill.

The Hon'ble Sir John Strachey said that perhaps it would be best, and for some reasons most convenient, that he should reserve till the end of the debate the observations he had to make. But his hon. friend, Mr. Colvin, had made certain remarks which reminded him that it was desirable that he should say a few words before the debate proceeded any further. His hon. friend appeared to think that there existed certain misunderstanding in the minds of some people as to the objects of the Bill introduced, and he had referred to certain expressions from which it was believed that the Bill was connected with customs tariff measures. Personally he had himself become aware of the existence of some misunderstanding, and it was very desirable that he should avail himself of the earliest opportunity of removing to the best of his power all misapprehension on the subject. He would observe to the Council in the first place that when, the other day, he had spoken of the possibility of the time coming when they would be rid altogether of customs duties in India, he had stated his own opinion that such a state of things was very desirable; but he was afraid he had not made it clear that that was his personal opinion only, and therefore he desired to say that, when he had dipped into the future and looked forward to the time when the untaxed wares of the world would come into the ports of India, he was merely indulging in his own imagination on the subject, and not committing the Government of India to any definite policy. In fact, the question had never come before the Government up to the present time; it had in no way been considered, and consequently no policy could have been determined on regarding it. But still he would also like to add for his own part that, in indulging in these visions of the future, it had never entered into his head that it was possible to look forward to any specific time for the consummation of that which he had stated he hoped would be brought about. The sea customs of India brought in a revenue of over two and a half millions per year, and nothing could be plainer than that they could not get on without it, unless indeed they substituted heavy and unwelcome taxation on the people of India. To adopt such a measure just now would be, in his opinion, injudicious; but the abolition of the customs duties at the present time would be simply preposterous. In dealing with a much smaller matter, the proposed removal of duties on cotton goods—even in dealing with that matter he had never entertained the smallest idea of imposing fresh taxation. The Secretary of State had in a late despatch on the subject pronounced such a course inexpedient, and His Excellency the President had taken the earliest opportunity after his arrival in India as Viceroy to make a public announcement very much to the same effect. That policy was not only a reasonable one, but one which he earnestly hoped the Government would carry out. He had said the other day in speaking of this very matter that the interests of England and India in the proposal for the abolition of cotton duties were identical, and he was confident that, if they acted in a cautious and prudent manner, as the Secretary of State had proposed, no Indian interests would suffer; in fact, it was his conviction that Indian interests would immensely benefit. But he would not be able to say so if it was necessary that there should be fresh taxation. His own opinion was that the Government would, if it proposed anything of the kind, neglect a paramount duty which it owed the people of India as their natural guardian. He had showed in his Financial Statement that for the past seven years the expenditure of this Empire had not increased, while every branch of the revenue had considerably advanced, the increase being something like £300,000 per year. Now, considering that the cotton duties amounted to about £800,000, and it was proposed to deal with the matter in a cautious and gradual way, it seemed not too sanguine to anticipate that the time was not far distant, but that it would soon come, when the first step towards the abolition of these duties would be taken The sole object of the Bill now before the Council was, his hon. friend, Mr Colvin, had said, a desire to carry out in the North-Western Provinces a great measure of financial reform, and these Bills would enable them to do it. That object was, as he had stated before, and as his hon'ble friend had said to-day, to enable them to enforce local and provincial responsibility in meeting local and provincial wants. That was the object of the Bill now before the Council. And now he had to make a personal confession. He was one of those people who were too much inclined to state their opinions in strong and plain language, and perhaps also he did not give due consideration to the opinions of those who happened to differ from him. He was obliged to confess that he met an illustration of this when in cold blood he read the remarks he had made last Thursday on the subject of cotton duties, considering that it was not much more than a year ago that Lord Northbrook, for whom, both in private life and on public grounds, he felt the highest respect, and many of the hon'ble members of the Council for whom he had the same feeling, had entertained and expressed opinions altogether at variance with his own, he thought—to his shame he was obliged to confess—that it would have been wiser if he had said what he had said in less aggressive language. And he hoped that hon'ble members from whose opinions he had differed would accept this apology from him.

The Hon'ble Maharaja Jotendro Mohan Tagor said that he did not wish to enter into the details, nor to discuss the various principles raised in the Budget Statement; but he would beg leave simply to invite attention to one or two points connected with the decentralization scheme, which, he thought, formed one of the main features of the Financial Statement. The theory of decentralization was certainly sound in principle, but the present scheme, in his humble judgment, did not go sufficiently far. While certain sources of revenue were made over to the local Government, certain liabilities were thrown upon them, which would necessitate the imposition of fresh local taxation. Now taxes, whether called local or imperial, as the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Finances had himself admitted, would press upon the people all the same. If he might be so permitted, he would remark that the proposed system of Local Finance was like the *Ticcadaree* system known in Bengal Zemindaris, only the arrangement seemed to be based upon less favourable terms; for the *Ticcadar* generally paid to the Zemindar less than the gross assets he derived from the land, and was allowed to enjoy all prospective profits during his incumbency, whereas the Local Government under the decentralization scheme was required not only to make good to the Imperial Government the full amount of the receipts from the different sources of revenue assigned, but also to make over a moiety of the increase during the period of the contract. If justice was to be done to the Local Governments under the decentralization scheme, he thought the only way to do it would be to adopt the course indicated by Lord Canning in his Resolution of the 11th November 1861. Speaking of Bengal, in which he naturally felt the greatest interest, he begged to observe that it yielded the largest amount of revenue, while its provincial expenditure came up to about one-third of the gross income. Making proportionate deductions from certain revenues, such as opium and customs, to which other provinces had a legitimate claim, there was still left a large surplus, which went to make up for the deficiencies of the less paying provinces; and yet it was proposed to levy fresh taxes. This, he submitted, was not fair or just to Bengal. It had often been urged that, as Bengal was blessed with a permanent settlement, and as her land revenues could not be increased, it ought to be made to pay in other ways. Those who averred this forgot that in no other part of India was indirect taxation more productive than in Bengal, and that, to use the words of His Grace the Duke of Argyll, H. M.'s Secretary of State in 1870, "in the greater fruitfulness of indirect taxation and some direct taxes in Bengal, as compared with other provinces, the Government recovers some portion of the revenue which it has sacrificed in the form of land assessment." And this was exactly the result which was expected by that far-seeing statesman who introduced the permanent settlement. He wished to add one word with regard to compulsory rates for irrigation. No doubt, the principle was sound, that those who benefitted by the work ought to pay for it; but it so happened that in Bengal the canals did not supply the water when it was most needed; for the rivers dry during a season of drought, the canals which were fed by the rivers became necessarily dry also, and during the rains, when the canals were full, there was rarely any necessity of supply from them for irrigation. It would be very hard to impose a permanent tax on the people for works of which the benefit was so very uncertain. He believed it was for this, among other reasons, that the Secretary of State once disallowed a law imposing a tax of this nature; and, if the Government should revert to the same policy within so short a time, he respectfully submitted that the effect upon the people would be anything but assuring.

The Hon'ble Maharaja Narendra Krishna said that they had heard the able and lucid Financial Statement read at the last meeting of this honourable Council. It would be impracticable to dwell at length on the various items contained in it, and he would therefore confine his remarks to certain very important points. The Government of India wished to raise the amount of six and a half millions by loans, to be contracted here or in England, or partly in both countries. Such a large amount would not have been required if the finances had not been affected by the terrible famines raging in the Presidencies of Bombay and Madras, and by the charges required for Extraordinary Public Works. This was certainly a matter of regret; but over the former cause there could be no human control, and as regarded the latter an economical management was promised. The people of India were very much indebted to His Excellency for not recommending the imposition of the obnoxious Income Tax to meet the deficiency. It was stated that certain existing taxes would have been touched, but had not been interfered with, on account of the famines. It was contemplated to equalise and reduce the salt-duties, to abolish the inland customs lines and the sugar duties, and the import duties on cotton goods. In the absence of any data of the amount of the proposed reduction of salt duties, if they took the amount of revenue derived from the other two sources to be about a million, they would have to lose an income of about one million, to recoup which it was feared some new form of taxation would hereafter be imposed upon the people. It would, however, be premature to dwell on such subjects, which were not now taken in hand; but he would only point out that, although nothing could be said as to the abolition of all protective duties as a general principle, he might observe that all principles should not necessarily be acted upon simply because they were good and sound, without a due regard to their adaptability to the times and the circumstances of the people. The cotton industries, through the aid of steam machineries just born in the different parts of India, required the fostering care of the British Government for their development, and it was on that account a matter of serious consideration whether the abolition of these duties would not stifle them at their birth, not to mention that it was still a doubtful question whether the particular customs duty was of a protective character. It was declared that an extension of the existing form of provincial taxation was to be made for carrying out local improvements. The people, however, believed that their able and wise Lieutenant-Governor could devise means to raise the twenty-seven lakhs of rupees required for the carrying out of the proposed improvements more by the curtailment of expenditure and the development of the productive resources of the country, then by the extension of the existing taxes.

The Hon'ble David Cowie said that, as he had no special exceptions to take to the Financial Statement before them, his observations upon it would be very brief, and perhaps therefore the more acceptable. He congratulated the Hon'ble Member that he had happily managed to steer clear of the imposition of an Income Tax, in which he was the more to be praised inasmuch as he did not disguise his admiration of that mode of raising Indian revenue. If one could eliminate from that Statement the cost of the terrible famine, he felt bound to admit that the years' estimate of income and expenditure would have been both satisfactory and encouraging. That cost, they were told, was to be met by loans, to be raised partly in India and partly in England. When money here was worth 10 per cent., and at home 2½ per cent., there should *prima facie* be no doubt as to which was the better country where to borrow; but then came in that very difficult problem called the silver question, which cast grave doubts upon the expediency of India borrowing English gold when she could pay the interest of it in only a very depreciated silver currency. It was possible that the suggestion of borrowing in each country arose in the desire, if he might use the expression, to hedge this very grave difficulty. In the case of borrowing in England, there was this singular anomaly. It was matter of notoriety, that the most impecunious Government in the world may go into the London money-market and borrow to the extent of the credulity of lenders; but the Empire of India could not do so without a special Act of Parliament, and from what had fallen from the Hon'ble Member last week, it would seem that even that concession could not with certainty be calculated upon. In connection with the proposed loan, he thought that bankers and merchants had cause to complain of the very remarkable vagueness as to time, place, and circumstance which accompanied the statement of the Finance Minister that three and three-quarter millions would probably be raised at home, and two and a half millions in this country. In point of fact it came to this that, notwithstanding those figures were named, the Government of India would borrow when and where it pleased. He congratulated the Hon'ble Member on his broad and liberal utterances in regard to the salt tax, the inland customs duties, and the import duties on cotton manufactures. When hearing the Hon'ble Sir John Strachey last week draw a picture, to which distance lent enchantment, of the day when the ports of this vast Empire should be free to the commerce of the world, he had thought that it was somewhat utopian, but had imagined he was only setting up a high standard of excellence, of which, if not the whole, a part might some day be realized; but in his explanation of to-day he had removed all the varnish from that picture by stating that he had merely been revelling in imagination. At his time of life Mr. Cowie could not hope to see that consummation; but he very cordially trusted that the Hon'ble Member himself might.

The Hon'ble Mr. Bullen Smith said that in supporting the Bills just laid before the Council by the Hon'ble Member on his right, it would be readily supposed that from his constant residence in Lower Bengal he could not bring any special information to their consideration; and he might well give a silent vote in their favour, but for two reasons: 1st. Having had the honour of a seat in this Council when the decentralization scheme had first been launched under the presidency of His Excellency's lamented predecessor, Lord Mayo, and having given his cordial adherence to that measure as one which in his judgment formed a turning point in modern finance, he was the more pleased to give his support to a Bill which, like the first of the two originally introduced, was in further development of that system; and he was also glad of the opportunity to express the pleasure with which he had heard the hon. gentleman now at the head of the Financial Department, who had himself so largely shared in the initiation of the policy of decentralization, declare that, after a thorough examination of the working of that measure during the seven years in which it had been in operation, he was able to announce to the Council and to the public that its results were entirely satisfactory. His second reason for abstaining from a mere silent vote on the present occasion was that he desired to avail himself of the opportunity, which he understood to be His Excellency's wish, this day's discussion would afford, of making a few comments on the Financial Statement that had been delivered before this Council on Thursday last. He had listened to this Statement with the utmost pleasure, satisfaction, and interest—more so, he thought he might safely say, than to any previous Financial Statement which he had heard delivered in this place. He thanked the hon'ble gentleman for his frankness. He admired the Statement for its boldness, and he particularly rejoiced to find in it not mere clerkly manipulation of figures, but a strong and well-defined grasp of what he considered sound financial principles, which he could not doubt would ultimately secure to His Excellency's financial policy that success which it deserved. The field over which the Statement travelled was large and varied; but he did not purpose troubling the Council with any lengthy remarks, but merely noticing a few of the points which were of most interest to those who, like himself, were engaged in mercantile pursuits, and whom he might perhaps in some degree be held to represent in this Council. Regarding opium, he accepted with thankfulness the hon'ble member's declaration that he would, on the earliest possible day after the termination of certain enquiries now going on, announce the exact quantity which would be offered next year; and he believed that in so doing he would at once serve the interests of the trade and of the Government. For some years past it had been the custom to give such information to a certain extent, although not for such a forward period as was now pointed at; and he believed, with the happiest results. If during these years the fluctuations in the price of opium had been less frequent and severe than formerly, he considered it to be very much owing to the knowledge possessed of the quantity to be brought forward. So long as Bengal opium was the subject of occasional heavy gambling operations, which were generally initiated from the Bombay side, considerable fluctuations in price must be expected; but, apart from such interruptions, the information promised should have a very steadying effect on the market. He wished much that the hon'ble member could have been more reassuring on ways and means. He not only concurred with him in thinking it unsatisfactory, but he considered it also most unfortunate and injurious that Government had not been able to give more definite information regarding its loans and bill operations for the coming year. True, the present views and estimates of these are mentioned in the financial Statement; but the note attached and to which the hon'ble member had most properly drawn prominent attention, took away any value from this declaration, and left all in doubt and uncertainty—conditions which always pressed hardly on business. The limited extent of the markets of India for Government securities, and the fact that there exist here, unlike the great financial centres of Europe, almost no other forms of investments in which bankers and merchants can place their reserves and floating funds, were two circumstances which tended greatly to aggravate the evil of uncertainty in such matters. It was obvious that, in view of the announcement made in this Statement, operations in Government securities must for the present be somewhat of a leap in the dark, while the uncertainty about the issue of the Council Bills must tend still more to perplex all concerned as to the future course of exchange, and reduce this all-important class of business to something not unlike gambling. In making these observations, he did not forget that the exchange difficulties last year had pressed very hardly upon the Government of India in common with other people, and he was also free to admit that undue panic had something to do with the excessive decline which had taken place in the value of the rupee. Nor was he disposed to insist much upon that wisdom; but he thought it was now generally admitted—and here he desired to speak with all moderation and respect—that a firmer and more consistent handling of the Council Bills last year would have greatly checked and mitigated the evil, which the course adopted tended rather to intensify. This being so, he thought he was not asking too much when he expressed the earnest hope that, as Parliament was now in session, the Secretary of State might be at once moved to obtain the statutory borrowing powers, which he should receive with the least possible delay, and forthwith put the Indian Government in a position to give, as regards the loans and Council Bills for the coming financial year, that definite information which circumstances demanded, and which, he believed, there was no desire on the part of Government to withhold. The Financial Statement delivered to the Council last Thursday closed with some interesting remarks on certain fiscal matters, and a vehement denunciation of the existing cotton duties. He was no lover of trumpets which gave an uncertain sound and, even if he had any such predilection, he knew that he must look elsewhere than to the Hon'ble the Financial Member for such an instrument; but, believing that in his remarks on the cotton duties the hon'ble gentleman had not spoken in his individual capacity, he confessed that he had heard them with surprise and regret, and would have desired more measured utterances. The remarks as made seemed likely to kindle hopes which had no early prospect of accomplishment, and further appeared to indicate that the Government of India was prepared to go to extremes in carrying out the instructions of the Secretary of State on this subject. From what had fallen from the hon'ble member this morning, he was glad to infer that his fears had been groundless, and that on the previous occasion he had been giving utterance rather to the intensity of his own convictions, than speaking in that other and wider sense to which he had alluded. As these cotton duties were not to-day before the Council in any practical shape, it was not his intention to enter upon the subject in detail, or to trouble the Council with the reasons which had led him and many others altogether to dissent from the opinion that these duties had a priority of claim over any other form of fiscal relief. He would rather express the hope that, in carrying out the instructions of the Secretary of State, the Government of India would avail itself of the large discretion which these instructions seemed to leave in its hands, and would not, when the opportunity came for making some move towards the removal of these cotton duties, lose sight of other matters, which, although not so much heard of, had even stronger claims to relief. He need not assure the hon'ble member that he would welcome as gladly as himself the free ports to which he looked forward; that he was no lover of these cotton duties *per se*. He would even go further, and admit for the sake of argument that they were blots on the Indian fiscal system. But, they all knew that there were blots and blots: some so large as to deface and disfigure the parchment; others so small as to be scarcely discernible. It was a question of degree; and so also with these fiscal items. What he asked was that each should be considered on its merits; and in the meantime he might express his own strong opinion that some of the other items to which he had alluded not only offended more against the theory of fiscal economy than did these cotton duties, but were also productive of much more evil and mischief in their practical working. As to the proper mode of dealing with this subject, he was not ashamed to say that, both as a member of this Council and as a member of the Tariff Committee, his endeavour had been to look at it mainly from an Indian point of view; and for this reason among others, that he had always felt sure that the English side of the question would be fully put forward by others, and would meet with every consideration from the controlling authority at home before any decision was come to. In saying this, he hoped he need not assure the hon'ble member that he was not one of the foolish people who sneer at Manchester; and he agreed with him that the man was foolish indeed who would attempt to sneer at that great centre of England's manufacturing industry. But human nature was, he took it, much the same in Lancashire as elsewhere; and it was only natural that the men of Manchester had looked, do look, and should continue to look at the cotton duties from their own point of view and in the light of their own interests. He did not blame them for so doing, but he could not admit that their interest and those of India were altogether so identical as his hon'ble friend seemed to consider them. Identical they were of course in so far as the interests of England were closely bound up in those of her greatest dependency; identical they were in that the interests of two countries carrying on such a trade as that existing between England and India could not but be closely connected; identical they were, no doubt, in a sort of general way; but it was an identity which, although accepted when stated in the abstract, became more difficult to receive when one entered on details. He would give an instance, taken from the Statement before the Council, where the interests of which he had been speaking were not identical. The hon'ble member in his Statement had given a graphic sketch of the customs hedge which ran across a great tract of Northern India, and had unsparingly pointed out its many evils. If that hedge were abolished to-morrow, no man in England would find himself happier or better off in any respect; while in India, from the very day of its abolition, harassment, extortion, and petty tyranny would be saved to many. Then, again, Lancashire needed no help from here to fight her cause. The men of Manchester were strong and wealthy and united; they wielded powerful political influence, and probably inspired, more than any other body, that strong terror without the salutary influence of which the Secretary said a few weeks ago, when speaking to the Associated Chambers of Commerce, he did not know what would become of the reform of Indian finance. He had therefore, as he had said before, always felt quite sure that the Manchester view of these cotton duties would be well pressed, and had deemed it the more incumbent upon himself to view them from the Indian standpoint, to ascertain what was likely to be most equitable and beneficial to the people and trade of this country, and to decide accordingly. With these remarks he begged to tender his support to the two Bills before the Council.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal said th

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the hon'ble member who had preceded him had made a remark with regard to the General Financial Statement that it would be out of order to discuss the whole policy except with the consent of the President. This was a mistake; for the Bills were the outcome of the Financial Statement; and therefore it was quite open to discuss the measures set forth without enquiring into the details of the Bills. On the whole, the financial position of the country, though at first sight it might seem gloomy and discouraging, was not, he thought, altogether unsatisfactory. It seemed to be the case that, if India could only be secured against a recurrence of the calamities by which she was now so frequently visited, her ordinary revenue would amply meet her expenditure. But these visitations had now become so chronic that it was absolutely necessary to take the probability of their recurrence into consideration in making a forecast of the finance of coming years; and he thought, therefore, that the Government of India had followed the only course open to it in determining to permanently increase its revenue to the extent necessary to meet these extraordinary calls without periodically upsetting the whole of the financial arrangements of the country. Nothing was so bad for the country as the doubt and uncertainty arising from a state of things under which works sanctioned, and actually in course of construction, were suddenly stopped in the middle of the year, and the whole machinery of administration thrown out of gear by the necessity for retrenchment, in consequence of some unforeseen call upon Government. The necessities of the Government of India at the present time had, as his hon'ble friend had explained, thrown upon the local Governments, and especially upon the Government of Bengal, very heavy burdens; but, entirely recognising as an undeniable fact that Government had no alternative between perpetual financial difficulty and a permanent increase of its revenues and their re-establishment on a safe basis, he readily agreed to accept his share of the responsibility of raising an increased revenue, and felt sure that the urgency of the case would be fully recognised by the people of Bengal, and that he would receive the cordial co-operation of the officers of the Bengal Government and of the people themselves in giving effect to the measures involved in the change of system which had been explained to the Council. Bengal had in her own calamity had much reason to be thankful for the ready aid offered to her in the time of her need, and would not grudge her contribution in aid of other provinces now suffering from a similar trouble. If in the face of the frequently recurring casualties which might at any time arise, and which might take the shape of drought, floods, war, or other national calamity, the Government was to keep its head above water at all, he believed that the transfer of its liabilities for the interest on extraordinary works to the provinces for whose benefit, protection, or development these works had been undertaken, was the best and most appropriate solution of the question. He believed that the principle of making each province pay for its own extraordinary works of the third of the classes into which his hon'ble friend had divided works of this description was thoroughly sound, and he was confident that it would at once secure greater caution in the adoption of schemes intended to be reproductive, and at the same time give a great impetus to the prosecution of really sound and substantial schemes. It would be a great security to the local Government in working out large schemes to feel that each province practically had the matter in its own hands, and that works once undertaken and progressing would not be liable to be stopped in consequence of financial difficulty in a totally different part of the country. He took it for granted that it was intended that, if a provincial Government showed that it was able to meet the interest on its loans, there would be no difficulty made in assigning to it such money as it wanted for approved schemes, so far as the borrowing powers of the Government would permit. He entirely agreed in the principle which his hon'ble friend had enunciated in respect to the propriety of making the maintenance of such works as irrigation and canals a charge upon the people for whose direct and immediate benefit they were constructed, so far as this could be done. If they were to keep up a supply of water for the use of the people of particular parts of the country specially exposed to droughts, and to make this water always available to them to use or leave unused, as the seasons may make it convenient to them, they must make them pay for the certainty of a sufficient quantity of water for agricultural purposes which was thus assured to them. They could not close their works and dismiss their establishments in wet years, and open them again in dry years; the works must be permanently constructed. As a scale involving the expenditure of a large amount of capital and a large establishment must always be maintained to protect and preserve the works, and meet any demand for water that are made on them, obviously the only proper way of meeting the interest on the capital thus locked up, and the expenses of this establishment, was levying a fixed but moderate rate on all lands protected and secured from risk by the work, and to which they were prepared to turn water whenever it was demanded. Ordinarily, no doubt, the whole cost of such work should fall upon that part of the country only which was benefitted by it. Unfortunately, Bengal was peculiarly situated in respect to some of her irrigation works. It inherited two great schemes, the Orissa and Sone schemes, from a private company. The whole works were on an extravagant and wasteful scale, and, though in the course of a few years the Sone scheme might with a compulsory rate be made to pay its own way, the Orissa works never could pay. Under these peculiar circumstances they could not saddle the people of the districts concerned with the whole cost of the works, but must make them pay all that they could afford to pay, and recover the rest from the province at large. Though it was unfair that the people of one province should pay for works of this class constructed in another province, the same objection did not exist to the imposition of a general rate on a province in aid of certain districts of the same province. The whole province must be treated as a unit, and it was no doubt true that a whole province benefitted by anything which was done to improve a large portion of it. If it were not for these irrigation works, the time might well come again, as it had come before, when the whole of Bengal might be called upon to suffer for the misfortunes of Orissa and Behar; and therefore the whole of Bengal may very well be called upon to pay a light tax as an insurance against such risk. The case of railways was different to that of canals, and he did not go quite so far here as his hon'ble friend seemed disposed to do. He did not think that railways should be a charge upon the istricts through which they passed. In the first place no railway should be undertaken by local Governments, unless they would pay directly in some form or another, and for the future there should be no permanent charges on the revenue for the outlay incurred on their account. But if the liability for paying the first cost of a railway were thrown upon the district through which it ran, no railways would in future be made. The people of a district through which a railway passed benefitted no doubt by the rise in prices which resulted from improved facilities of communication with large markets; but the people of the province at large also gained, and might be held liable for their share of the guarantee of interest. For instance, the new Northern Bengal Railway would bring into market the tobacco of Rangpur at a much lower cost than had hitherto been incurred for boats and car carriage. Part of the benefit of this would go to the producer in the shape of the increase of price which the dealers would be able to give under the stimulus of competition; but part would go to the conservancy which had their tobacco laid down at a lower cost. Therefore, while he would enforce as much as possible the liability of districts for irrigation works and works of direct benefit on the land, he would make the whole province pay the cost of making railways and works of indirect benefit. The onus of expenditure which the Government of India had shifted from its own shoulders to those of Bengal amounted to twenty-seven and-a half lakhs of rupees; but he hoped, as his hon'ble friend had said, that he should be able to meet the new liabilities he had thus incurred without any very heavy taxation, and to avoid altogether any new form or method of taxation. He had to express on his own behalf, and on behalf of local Governments generally, his acknowledgments for the proof of confidence which had been shown in them in the increased powers of control and administration now conferred on them. He believed that the result of giving local Governments a more immediate interest in the financial working of the various departments of State would lead to a better understanding between the supreme and subordinate Governments. So far it had been a pleasure to him to feel that the views of his hon'ble friend were entirely in accordance with his own. He must now glance at certain expressions of opinion on his part in which he found himself entirely unable to concur. They were, it was true, as he had just stated, only expressions of his own opinion, for they related to no immediate financial results; and it would, therefore, he thought, be better to let them pass. But, though they did not take any practical form as applied to the present year's estimates, they did seem a threat as to the future, and at first appeared to pledge the Governor-General in Council to a course of action which he thought, in the interests of the Government as well as in general, called for some explanation. And this explanation had now been given, and with a generosity and sincerity which reflected the highest credit on his hon'ble friend's feelings. He might, he felt sure, take upon himself to say that the explanation of his hon'ble friend would be considered entirely satisfactory by all those who took a different view of the question at issue from his hon'ble friend. He alluded to his friend's remarks on the abolition of customs duties, and of cotton duties especially. His hon'ble friend had commenced by telling them that their ordinary revenues were just sufficient to meet all ordinary and normal charges, but that it was absolutely necessary to establish a sufficient margin to enable the Government to meet with certainty not only the charges for famine relief, but, to quote his own words, "for other demands which cannot be foreseen, but which will inevitably occur." And to enable the Government to do this, it was explained that very many heavy liabilities had been thrown upon the Government of Bengal and the North-Western Provinces which those Governments, recognising the emergency of the case, had agreed to bear. Believing that the absolute necessites of the State were, as he had already said, the sole cause of the obligations imposed upon Bengal, he had most loyally accepted that obligation. He need hardly say that he had at first been much startled to find that, though their necessities were as great as his hon'ble friend had represented them to be, he had not hesitated to volunteer an apparent pledge that cotton duties, representing more than three-quarters of a million, should be abolished on the first opportunity, and had proceeded to suggest a further intention eventually to abolish all customs duties; that was to say, to give up indirect revenue, regarding which not a single murmur or complaint had been heard, amounting to two and a half millions, and of course, as he presumed, to impose in its place direct taxation to a similar amount; for there was no prospect whatever held out to them of such a reduction of expenditure as would place them in a position to dispense with this enormous sum. Of course he could not say how far this pledge and this policy were the personal pledge and policy of his hon'lbe friend and an indication of his individual resolve to advance with all the persistence and ability of which he was master, a theory of ideal taxation which had possessed his mind, as he was aware, for many years; or how far they were the outcome of a deliberate conclusion of the entire Government. He was delighted to find that the former hypothesis was the correct one; for he did not hesitate to say that immense mischief would have been done by an announcement that while pressing the Local Government to tax the pettiest trade in the N. W. P. and throw increased burdens on the peasantry of Bengal, the Government of India had formed a deliberate conception of a financial policy which was not only to comply with the demands of the Manchester mill-owners, but which was to lead up to an eventual abolition of the customs duties—in fact, to remit the one single form of taxation which pressed upon European residents in India. He was glad now to find that Government had no such intention, and that his hon'ble friend fully recognised the impossibility of taking off any duties so long as they would have to be replaced by fresh taxation. For his own part the Lieutenant-Governor believed that there was no form of taxation so sound, so productive, and so little open to objection as the indirect revenue raised by customs duties. His hon'ble friend had alluded to the huge establishment which the collection of customs involved, and spoken as if he thought it an irritating and wasteful form of taxation. But there was the simple fact that in the Custom House of Calcutta alone a revenue of three and a half millions was collected at a cost of less than three per cent. It was paid by the bulk of the people without, their being brought into contact with the tax-collector, and without their even knowing that any tax was raised. The peculiar fitness of customs duties as a main feature of Indian revenue had most admirably been described by the late Viceroy in his speech on the Tariff Bill in 1875. His arguments he believed to be quite unanswerable; at all events, no one had ever attempted to answer them. If the rate of duty was injurious to any particular article of trade, by all means let that be rectified; but he believed that it would be extremely difficult to show that the rate now levied on any article was having a mischievous effect on trade. Of all the customs duties the one which was perhaps the least open to objection in practical application, as it appeared to many thinking men, was the duty on the finer qualities of cotton goods. It was levied on an article of general use, and was therefore productive; and it was adjusted that the rich paid a higher rate than the poor. The poor man bought his cheap cloth, and paid a low duty; the rich man bought a better cloth, and paid a higher duty. He could not regret too much that the question of the conflicting interests of England and India had been brought into the question. It was not, he agreed with his hon'ble friend, a question of different interests; for the only point of view from which he believed the Government of India could look at the matter was from a purely financial point of view. He hoped the day was far distant when such questions should in this country, as unfortunately had been the case in other countries, be decided in favour of the larger interest, which made the most noise, and could make itself most heard and felt. What has to be considered was this,—are these duties financially sound or unsound? Can the revenue which they produce be spared or not? If they were financially unsound, they defeated their own object, and would fail to bring in the revenue for which they were imposed. If they were not financially unsound, if they continued to bring in more than the revenue they were calculated to bring in, then it was wrong from a financial point of view to modify or remove them so long as revenue was required, or any more objectionable mode of taxation existed, which was certainly the case at present. He was of opinion that sufficient reason had not been given for believing that these duties were financially unsound from this point of view, and it was assuredly the case that Government was not in the position of having more money than it knew what to do with; and, therefore, it seemed to him impossible for the Government to pledge itself to any course of action in respect to customs duties. The hon'ble member had said that it was seldom wise for Government to go out of its way to pledge itself to measures which it intended to adopt hereafter, and which might turn out after all to be impracticable. In this he thought they would all agree with him, and he firmly believed that this principle had never been more applicable and cogent than in the case of these duties. Though he differed from his hon'ble friend on this point, he could quite understand that he had been carried away into saying things which would better have been left unsaid. This theory of what he dared say his hon'ble friend called absolutely free trade had long been the prevailing idea of his mind. He had long been its supporter in India, and he spoke he knew, from honest conviction, and he dared say he was quite unable to understand how any one of ordinary intelligence could fail to agree with him. But, as a matter of fact, he would find that very few did agree with him; and if he found himself in advance of the age, he must be content to adapt his speed to that of the people whom he had to convince, and satisfy them that he was working for their good. He had not ventured on these remarks in any hostile spirit, or desired to raise opposition. No doubt the remarks of his hon'ble friend on Thuseday had had the effect of away creating considerable alarm until they had been explained by his remarks of to-day. He had stated last week his belief that an honest Government obtained great advantage from a full examination and discussion of its proposed measures, and the Lieutenant-Governor only hoped that the result of this discussion would be to make him reflect very seriously before he attempted to carry his theories into effect. He was glad to have heard from him to-day his repudiation of any desire to sacrifice India's interests to those of any other country, and he was sure that they might feel that the Government of India looked upon the interests of the people of India as its first duty, and that no one took that view more strongly than his hon'ble friend.

The Hon'ble Mr. Hope said that before noticing the two Bills which were now under the consideration of the Council, he proposed to offer a few remarks on the Budget Statement which had been presented on the last occasion when the Council met, although he was well aware that, but for H. E. the President's indulgence, he should be out of order in doing so. He would in the first place express the great relief and satisfaction which he felt, and which he believed was shared by all who gave any attention to such matters, at learning from his friend, the Hon'ble Sir J. Strachey, that, in respect of Public Works Extraordinary, the cloud which they had seen louring in the horizon at the time of Sir William Muir's Financial Statement last year, and which had darkened over their heads with momentary threats of bursting in August last, had to all appearance passed away; and that these works were not to be further checked, or indefinitely postponed. The importance of these extraordinary Works, whether railways or canals, or others of a special nature, had not been, Mr. Hope was quite certain, one whit overrated by the hon'ble member, and he was sure that Sir John Strachey must share with him, though he might not feel at liberty to express it, the disappointment he experienced on learning that the condition of the finances did not allow of the assignment of a larger sum than two millions and a half towards these objects. In connection with this subject he would invite attention to the opposite side of the shield to that which the hon'ble member had presented to them. The hon'ble member had given a very graphic sketch of the enormous increase of wealth and prosperity, and the other incalculable benefits which canals and railways had conferred upon the country. He would invite them to remember the loss, past and still continuing, to trade and the more confined increment in the national wealth which resulted from delay in the prosecution of these undertakings on a larger scale than hitherto. The hon'ble member had also pointed out that, but for railroads, the people now suffering from famine in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies would be dying of starvation by hundreds of thousands. He would recall to their minds the painful memory of the hundreds of thousands who did die in Rajpootana in 1869 for want of the railway through that Province, the construction of which had been so long vainly urged. On the whole, he was inclined to think that, considering the importance of these works, and the vast interests involved, it would be justifiable, in any case in which the fact that a work would pay was undoubted, to push it on even at a greater rate than financial prudence, according to their present principles, would permit. He was not at all sure that it would be right to construct such a work with the utmost rapidity, debiting to capital, if need be, the interest during construction, and even for two or three years later, in full confidence that the earlier use would in a variety of ways, indirect and direct, square the account, rather than to spread its execution over a series of years, to postpone it indefinitely because there was no surplus income, or to relegate it to forecasts which, as the hon'ble member had shown, were constantly liable to be falsified by new circumstances, and which only seemed to be brought forward to cause disappointment and tantalization. In connection with this, and with both the doubts which were entertained as to the possibility of raising sufficient capital in India and the importance, on which the hon'ble member had just dwelt, of raising as much of it as possible in India instead of in England, he would venture to throw out the suggestion whether raising money in India would not sometimes be facilitated if loans were to be recognized as being intended for particular works. As a case in point he would take this very Rajpootana Railway. He thought it highly probable that, if for the construction of this Railway there were a separate loan, many merchants in Bombay who had one reason or another for being interested in the line, and expected their trade to benefit by it, would be ready to subscribe, with the view of getting it constructed, although they would otherwise never have thought of investing their money in Government Paper. The princes again, through whose territories the railways would pass, might with propriety be invited, and would no doubt accept the invitation to place at the disposal of Government for investment in it a considerable portion of their balances, instead of leaving them to remain unused by lakhs and lakhs in their several treasuries, as at present. He would now pass on to the subject of exchange and the so-called depreciation of silver. He observed that the hon'ble member had stated that their loss by exchange was "one element which may be said to be practically altogether beyond our control." In another place he had said that "we cannot with any confidence expect to avoid serious loss hereafter from disturbances in the relative values of the precious metals." No doubt a question of this magnitude had most fully engaged the mind of the hon'ble gentleman, and Mr. Hope did not question that, in speaking as he had done, the hon'ble member had only exercised the caution which was due and necessary for one in his position, and felt sure that at the proper time the decision of the Government would be formally announced, together with the reasons for it. Mr. Hope had not the slightest desire to precipitate that decision, or to complain of the non-announcement of it on the present occasion; still less was it his object to attempt to extract any declaration on the subject. But he would say that although there were occasions when the strength of a Government might be to sit still, he did not think that this was one of them. The British Empire was interested in the silver question as much as any nation in the world—in fact more so, in consideration of the special double life which it possessed, a life both European and Indian. The English nation had in England an enormous debt, contracted and payable in gold. It had likewise there a vast manufacturing industry for export, which depended in a great measure on the ability of the silver-using nations with which it dealt to pay for its products. Here in India, on the other hand, it had a heavy debt to defray in gold, while all its assets were raised in silver. Thus, if there were any serious rise in the value of gold, such as he for one believed had taken place, rather than a fall in the value of silver, England must suffer both at home in her debt obligations and her current commerce, and in India by the depreciation of the national—he meant in the sense of Indian national—capital, which was almost entirely in silver, by the increase weight of the obligations which she had to meet in gold, and by the decrease in the value of her means of meeting them. He believed it, therefore, to be entirely the interest of England, whether in England or in India, to have as large a circulating medium as possible, and one which should embrace both gold and silver as a full legal tender. It would be gathered from what he had said that he was one of that minority—and he must admit with regret that they were at present a rather small minority—who were in favour of bi-metallism. So long ago as August last, after studying everything on the subject which was within his reach, he had written privately to his friend, Mr. Chapman, the Financial Secretary, that he could come to no other conclusion than that that system was the right one. He believed it was quite possible for Government to fix a ratio between gold and silver after due enquiry, and that it was just as much the duty of Government to do so as to take any other measures for the protection of the community. No doubt such a step could not be taken without an understanding with other nations. But if they were to wait till all nations agreed on the subject, or till they could get together a sort of universal conference, they might have to wait for ever. England, however, had no need to stand by in the hope that other nations would come forward and pull her chestnuts out of the fire, and it was undignified for her to do so. It seemed to him that to come to an understanding with the Latin union—that was to say, principally with France—was all that was required, and that we might then safely leave the rest of the nations to follow—or, rather, the course of events would oblige them to follow—in the line which we ourselves had adopted. He was very well aware that the subject of which he was treating was an exceedingly difficult one, and there might be a certain savouring of presumption in his speaking on it. This was not the time to argue out of whole matter, and he merely made these remarks in order to give utterance to the anxiety which both he and others felt that the Government should take up the subject, and at the same time to express their confidence that no one could be more competent to do so than the hon'ble member in charge of the finances. It might be that, if his own disposition had been more angellic, he might have feared to tread these mazes; but being what he was, he could only say—*Liberavi animam meam.* He now passed on to another subject—to the decision to treat as ordinary expenditure the cost of both famines and unproductive public works. The reasons for this course had been so clearly and forcibly stated by the hon'ble member, that the only wonder seemed to be that these items had ever been treated in any other manner. It might perhaps be necessary in some cases to borrow money for items which would thus be classed as ordinary; but he presumed that any money borrowed under such circumstances would be all brought directly into the ordinary charges of the year, and accepted, if necessary, as *bona fide* deficit. He had only one other remark to make in connection with this subject. The hon'ble member had said that, "if a work has been classed as extraordinary, and it be ascertained subsequently that the estimates of profit were fallacious, any further expenditure upon it shall not be treated as extraordinary, but entered among the ordinary charges." His hon'ble friend had not, however, said what he would do in the converse case which would arise if a work, like the Northern Punjab Railway, which was commenced for military purposes, and classed as ordinary, after a time paid its expenses. He presumed that in such a case the course which would be followed would be not to carry the receipts to the ordinary current revenue of the year, but that they would be treated as an addition to the annual amount which it was thought desirable and safe to set aside as interest on loans for reproductive enterprises. At the same time it was not quite clear as to what were the hon'ble member's intentions in such a case. The hon'ble member had, Mr. Hope went on to say, made several remarks and announcements in his Financial Statement with reference to salt, sugar, and customs. It was not clear at the time, nor was it perfectly clear now, although the hon'ble member had endeavoured to make it so, which of these were his own opinions, and which carried with them the weight of the Government of India. In some of those remarks Mr. Hope most heartily concurred; but with regard to others he could not go further than to admit that, when the orders of H. M.'s Government had been definitely and clearly given, they were bound to afford to them a loyal and unhesitating obedience. With respect to all those remarks and announcements, both those in which he concurred and those from which he was disposed to differ, he did not feel bound to make any detailed statements or criticisms, because there was no specific measure regarding them before the Council at the present time. He now came to the very important question of decentralization; and here he would express his unfeigned satisfaction that it had been decided to crown the work which had been commenced during the viceroyalty of the late Lord Mayo, and that the intention to do so had been set forth in terms which were sufficient to carry conviction to every reasonable mind. The measures which came under this head were, as he understood, three in number. The first consisted in transferring certain heads of revenue to the local Governments, and increasing the number of heads of expenditure which were under their control. There could be no doubt that the want of revenue out of which to meet the growing necessities of the country in all departments had been most seriously felt by the local Governments during the period for which the decentralization system, so far as it had thitherto gone, had been tried; and as one who had been long ago a district officer, Mr. Hope could testify that this was a difficulty which had met him at almost every turn. The difficulty would to a great extent be removed by the present arrangement, under which a portion of the increased revenue was to be retained by the local Governments, and the question of the proportion of the division of profits had been rightly kept open and made subject to revision at short periods. On this head he had nothing further to say than to express his own private opinion—of course, he had no authority to express any one on behalf of the Government of Bombay—that arrangements similar to those which were about to be carried out in the N. W. Provinces could be elaborated without any difficulty whatever for the Presidency of Bombay. With regard to the second head—that was, the transfer to local Governments of the responsibility for Extraordinary Public Works which were primarily of local and provincial utility—he thought there could be no doubt of the correctness of the principle that they should be so transferred. At the same time he anticipated considerable difficulty in its application, especially in the case of the new works in future. They all knew that the distinctions which existed between provincial and local charges were purely artificial. The main idea, he presumed, was that all the members of a community should pay alike for the measures which affected their security, and for the development of their common interests; but that special needs and special luxuries which were found to exist, or to be necessary, in any part of a country should be paid for by the persons whom they most concerned. For instance, here in Calcutta—more strictly speaking he should perhaps say at Simla—the Imperial Government found the police for the protection of the Station; but if a man wanted a special policeman to watch his house, he would be called upon to pay for it himself. That idea had already been largely applied in the case of Municipalities and local funds throughout India with the most satisfactory results. They found these bodies already everywhere providing for peculiar local wants, and also ready to pay for local luxuries, which the State at large was neither bound to furnish, nor able to afford. The difficulty, however, which would arise in the practical application of this principle in the cases now contemplated, was that there were many measures of which it was extremely doubtful whether they could be said to be primarily of local or provincial utility. Taking for instance, as an illustration, some of the canals which had been mentioned the other day, it might be argued, and probably with truth as regards a certain amount of the charge, that their cost was fairly debitable to the Imperial Government, which derived a large revenue from the land, and that the canal was constructed just as much for the security of that revenue as for the humane purpose of preserving the people from famine. Again, there were many more projects of which the benefit was extremely doubtful. There were numerous projects all over India cut and dried in the possession of their worthy friends of the P. W. D., and there was always considerable pressure to carry forward such schemes. He did not say that they were not carefully matured, and that in the honest opinion of their promoters they had not advantages which they would consider of sufficient importance to warrant their being carried out; but he doubted whether many of them would be held by the people at large to be of any benefit at all. He had in his mind at the present moment one scheme which had been on the *tapis* for some fifteen years. It was an irrigation canal, which was to cost half a million of money, and to go through a country which was already almost a garden in agriculture; and the sole end to be attained was that a large proportion of the land which was now paying a very heavy land revenue might hereafter pay three or four rupees an acre more. He did not think that such a scheme would be approved of by the people, or that the cost of it should be put upon them. As regards how far the local Governments were to be trusted in these matters, the argument cut both ways. Although it was true that, if they had to find the money, they might be more careful how they spent it, on the other hand it was also true that the facility of starting great projects almost at pleasure might make them forgetful of the serious difficulty of providing funds for them, which would usually have to be borne by their successors in office. The sum and substance of all he had said was this, that, although the principle appeared a thoroughly sound and proper one, and one which he hoped would be carried out within all safe limits, it seemed to be one over the practical application of which the Government of India would have to exercise a severe and constant check. As regarded the imposition of famine charges on the provinces afflicted with famine, he thought the hon'ble member had wisely deferred announcing any decision on the present occasion. As they had now, in the first place, a very heavy famine going on in two provinces, and were not in a position to know what the views of the local Governments were on the subject, any decision would now perhaps have been premature; and there were, moreover, a number of considerations affecting the famine in those particular provinces which might not apply to future famines. He would now pass on to notice the two Bills which had been brought forward, and he was afraid that the Council would be apt to consider that his remarks on them bore the same proportion to the rest of his speech which the bread bore to the sack on a certain well-known convivial occasion. It appeared to him that the License Bill would fill in the N. W. Provinces a blank which existed more or less all over India as regards the taxation of the non-agricultural classes. As to the structure of the Bill, he was glad to see that it was framed on the principle of large and well defined jumps in the rates which were to be imposed. It was extremely difficult—in fact next to impossible—to judge whether a man's income was £70 or £75; but it was comparatively easy to say whether he should pay a certain sum, or twice as much. He had no doubt that the gradation of rates which had been adopted in the Bill would very materially facilitate the just application of the tax, and would aid in commending it to the favourable reception of the community. As regarded the other Bill, it was, so far as he understood, a transfer of a part of an existing burden from one hand to another; and, if the Government of the North-Western Provinces considered it a proper transfer—of which Mr. Hope held them to be the best judges—there need be no further objection in this Council to their views being carried out. To these remarks he would only add, in conclusion, his hope that both these Bills would be approved by the Council, and passed at an early date.

The Hon'ble Sir John Strachey said that in discussing a subject of so much difficulty and complexity as that of the Indian finances, there must necessarily be many differences of opinion in matters of detail; but, speaking generally, he thought he might congratulate the Government and himself on finding that the principles which he had endeavoured to explain to the Council as those by which their financial policy ought to be governed had met with so much approval. There was, he thought, only one point on which he need now take up the time of the Council. This was a point which had been specially noticed by his hon'ble friends, Mr. Bullen Smith and Mr. Cowie, the former of whom, he regretted to think, would not much longer take part in their deliberations. If anything could have added to that regret, it would have been the speech which they had heard from him to-day. Whether he agreed with the Council or not, he had always felt that the Government was fortunate in having as its critic a man of such conspicuous ability and unfailing courtesy, and he thought that they were especially fortunate when, as he had done to-day, he told them that he generally approved of the principles of their policy. No one was more conscious than the speaker of the weak points in his Statement, and he had no wish to conceal or deny them. He agreed with his hon'ble friends, Mr. Bullen Smith and Mr. Cowie, that one of those weak points was the indefinite character of the announcements which he had made on behalf of the Government about the loan operations of the year, and the bills upon the Government of India which would be sold in London; but it was a weak point for which neither this Government, nor the Secretary of State, was responsible, but which arose from the peculiar circumstances of the case. The first great cause of this indefiniteness was the condition that the assent of Parliament must be had before any money could be borrowed in England on behalf of India. Whenever the Secretary of State had no statutory powers of borrowing unused—and this was his present position—it was impossible for him to assume that Parliament would see fit to grant any additional powers for which he might ask; still less could he proclaim to the world beforehand his assumption that Parliament would sanction arrangements which it had not discussed, or even heard of, and which he and the Government of India had settled as if they were an independent power. The English Parliament, wisely jealous of its own authority, was not a body that could be so treated. Moreover, the question of borrowing money in England was by no means a question important only to Indian finances; it was also a political question of the highest moment, affecting Imperial interests, over which it was the special duty of Parliament to watch. Even if this difficulty did not exist, it would be hardly possible, under present circumstances, to pledge the Secretary of State to sell any specified quantity of bills at specified times. Fluctuations in the price of silver might be so serious, and might occur so rapidly, that it might be in the highest degree inconvenient to carry out the pledges which had been given. It was so impossible to foresee even the near future that, as the Council would have observed, in speaking even of the sales of bills during the next two months, he could do no more than announce the present intentions of the Secretary of State. Even during the last few days they had had strong illustrations of the serious disturbances to which the rates of exchange were now liable. If the Council were to attempt to foresee the course of these disturbances, and make a definite programme to be adhered to under all circumstances, on the assumption that their forecast would prove correct, he feared that it might turn out that they had given the strongest possible proof of their own incompetency. All that he could say was that his announcements were made after communication with the Secretary of State, and that he could not doubt that Her Majesty's Government would give great weight to those announcements made on behalf of the Government of India. He would add that it was the desire of the Government of India to conceal none of the demands which it had to make upon the money market. The Council knew the magnitude of the interests affected by their operations, and recognised their duty to give the earliest and most complete information regarding them; and they entertained no doubt that a policy of perfect frankness was required in the interests as much of the State, as of the influential classes whose business operations must be affected by their transactions. It was the object of the Government, first to borrow altogether as little as possible; secondly, when it mus borrow, to obtain as much as possible in India, so as to avoid incurring obligations defined by a gold standard. There might be differences of opinion as to how this object might be most effectually attained, and as to the extent of the sacrifices to which it might be expedient for the State to submit in order that its obligations may be measured by its own standard of value. He desired to say, further, that the Government of India was quite alive to the fact that the interests of the State in this matter were identical with those of its creditors, and that whatever might be the Government's measures for the supply of the treasury during the year, the interests of the proprietors of its existing securities would be carefully considered.

His Excellency the President said that there could be no doubt that not only the various views and opinions to which they had listened in the course of this afternoon, but also the freedom and ability with which they had been expressed, would give great value to the record of their proceedings; and he certainly shared most strongly the opinion expressed by his hon'ble friend, Sir John Strachey, that they were all specially indebted to their hon'ble friend, Mr. Bullen Smith, for his excellent speech, to which he for one had listened, he might say, with the liveliest admiration. But the attention of hon'ble members had now been occupied for almost five hours; and patience had its limits. At any rate he was not so inhuman as to trespass further at this late hour upon the patience of the Council, which was probably well nigh exhausted; what little he had to say on the general subject of their financial policy, and more particularly with reference to the financial measures that had been placed before this Council, he proposed to reserve till their meeting next Wednesday, when he trusted it would be in their power to pass those measures into law. But perhaps he ought not to omit altogether the opportunity now offered him to corroborate on behalf of the Government of India, the explanatory statement made to-day by his hon'ble friend, the member in charge of the Financial Department of this Government. That Statement was made in reference to the impression brought to notice by his hon'ble friend, Mr. Colvin, in introducing the Bills which would to-day be referred to a Select Committee. Rumours of such an impression had already reached their ears, which were thus enabled to detect the echo of them in the observations of his hon'ble friend, the Maharaja Narendra Krishna. But those echoes, though not faintly repeated, had died away at last, and he hoped for ever, in the speech of his hon'ble friend, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. So far as he understood the character of that impression, it was this, that the Government of India desired or intended—if it were not indeed a covert conspiracy—to tax the people of Bengal, Oudh, and the North-Western Provinces, in order to enable the Government to purge its Customs tariff, by removing from it the cotton duties; nay, more, to render the whole tariff "fine by degrees, and beautifully less," till they got rid of it altogether. He thought, then, that he ought to repeat to the Council, with whatever authority his voice could give to it, the assurance already given by his hon'ble friend, Sir John Strachey, that they neither desired, nor intended, nor had they ever desired or intended, anything of the kind. What they did desire and intend was embodied in the two very simple Bills introduced by his hon'ble friend, Mr. Colvin; and it amounted to no more than this: They desired to give the earliest possible practical effect—an effect which should operate as widely as it was at present in their power to extend its operation—to the principle that local Governments should be responsible financially for the maintenance and management of works which were of special local utility. Now, between this principle and any part of the customs tariff there was no connection whatever that he was able to recognise. He did not wish to make at the present moment any observations on the cotton duties, further than this, that, if the present import duties on cotton goods were not five, but fifty, per cent.—if the whole of the sea customs revenue amounted to many more millions than it amounted to now—the principle to which he had referred would still in their sincere belief be an equally salutary principle, and its application would be equally necessary to place the Indian finances in a sounder and better position than they now held. It was undoubtedly true that the Secretary of State had intimated to the Council in the despatch which had been quoted by his hon'ble friend, Sir John Strachey, that, however, urgent might be the purgation of tariff by the removal, or gradual reduction, of those duties, still in his opinion such a measure ought not to be contemplated by means of increased direct taxation for the purpose of effecting it. But before the Secretary of State had expressed that opinion, it had been expressed by the Government of India itself; and the Government of India which then expressed that opinion still held it, and still desired to act on it. There was, he thought, no occasion for him to make any further observations on that particular subject at the present moment, and he would therefore now merely put to the Council the motion which was before it.

Sir John Strachey, in a general reply on the whole debate, said in reference to the complaints of Mr. Bullen Smith about the indefiniteness of the future as regarded loans and Council Bills that the question of borrowing money in England was by no means a question important only to Indian finances; it was also a political question of the highest moment, affecting Imperial interests, over which it was the special duty of Parliament to watch. Even if thus difficulty did not exist, it would be hardly possible, under present circumstances, to pledge the Secretary of State to sell any specified quantity of bills at specified times. Fluctuations in the price of silver might be so serious, and might occur so rapidly that it might be in the highest degree inconvenient to carry out the pledges which had been given. It was so impossible to foresee, even the near future that, as the Council would have observed, in speaking even of the sales of bills during the next two months, he could do no more than announce the present intentions of the Secretary of State. Even during the last few days they had had strong illustrations of the serious disturbances to which the rates of exchange were now liable. If the Council were to attempt to foresee the course of these disturbances, and make a definite programme to be adhered to under all circumstances on the assumption that their forecast would prove correct, he feared that it might turn out that they had given the strongest possible proof of their own incompetency. All that he could say was that his announcements were made after communication with the Secretary of State, and that he could not doubt that Her Majesty's Government would ive great weight to those announcements made on behalf of the Government of India. He would add that it was the desire of the Government of India to conceal none of the demands which it had to make upon the money market. The Council knew the magnitude of the interests affected by their operations, and recognised their duty to give the earliest and most complete information regarding them; and they entertained no doubt that a policy of perfect frankness was required in the interests as much of the State, as of the influential classes whose business operations must be affected by their transactions.

The Viceroy, in moving the adjournment of the debate, took occasion to disclaim any intention of treating the bills introduced to provide for a certain measure of local direct taxation as intended to be a thin end of the wedge aiming at the ultimate annihilation of the sea customs. It was undoubtedly true that the Secretary of State had intimated to the Council in the despatch which had been quoted by his hon'ble friend, Sir John Strachey, that, however urgent might be the purgation of tariff by the removal, or gradual reduction of those duties, still in his opinion such a measure ought not to be contemplated by means of increased direct taxation for the purpose of effecting it. But before the Secretary of State had expressed that opinion, it had been expressed by the Government of India itself; and the Government of India which then expressed that opinion still held it, and still desired to act on it.

The following is the speech of the Viceroy at the adjourned meeting on the 28th ultimo.

My Hon'ble friend Sir John Strachey began his singularly able finacial statement by observing that it is the first financial statement made before the public in this Council since the year 1872. I am glad that in the first year of my administration the Government of India has had the opportunity of submitting its whole financial policy to the discussion of this Council. Whatever may be thought of the manner in which we have availed ourselves of this opportunity, no one, I think, can justly say that it has been half-hearted, reserved, evasive, or ambiguous. Rarely has any Government been able to take the public into a confidence so complete as that which, on the present occasion, it has, at least, been our honest endeavour to facilitate; not only about our acts, but even, I might almost say, our inmost thoughts; our anxieties and hopes, our regrets and aspirations. When this Government was deprived of the experienced aid of my friend Sir W. Muir, Sir John Strachey, at the request of the Secretary of State, under a high sense of personal obligation to public duty, consented to exchange a very comfortable and easy post for a very anxious and laborious one. But to the discharge of its difficult duties, during a difficult period, few men could have brought greater courage and capacity than those which received, last week, from my hon'ble friend Mr. Bullen-Smith, such generous, though well deserved, recognition. There is one of the announcements made by my hon'ble colleague in his Financial Statement which no Hon' ble Member has yet noticed; but on which I congratulate myself, and on which, I think, the public may also be congratulated. I allude to the announcement that although, indeed, we cannot at present apply the new rule to existing works, yet the expenditure on all remunerative public works, which may hereafter be undertaken, will be carefully excluded from Extraordinary Account. This is a change of policy decided on by the Secretary of State when Lord Northbrook was Viceroy; but it has never before been publicly announced as the rule we intend to follow. Now, it may be said that this rule is a mere reform in book-keeping; in fact, that it is a very small matter. I admit that it is a small matter if it goes no further; but it will certainly not be my fault, nor that of my hon'ble colleague, if it does not go a great deal farther; and if it only goes far enough, I maintain that it is a very great matter. So far as it does go, it is a step in the right direction; for I share the doubt expressed by Sir John Strachey whether our Extraordinary Budgets have not been altogether a mistake. In the course of an official life which at least began early, it has frequently been my hard lot to grope my way with the greatest difficulty through the Financial Accounts of Continental Governments, in order to place before my own Government an accurate estimate of their financial situation. And a system which I have more than once officially described as vicious and misleading,—a system which has, I confess, sorely tried my temper, when adopted by other Governments—is certainly not one which I can regard without reluctance, as the system to be permanently pursued by the Government of India. The French Government, to its credit, has already abandoned that system. I have heard it said that our own system is exempt from the objections which apply to the extraordinary Budgets of Continental States; since we do not put into our Extraordinary Budget any expenditure which ought properly to be carried to Ordinary Account. But I do not think we are entitled to lay that flattering unction to our souls As a matter of fact, we have put into our Extraordinary Account many charges which ought to have been carried to Ordinary Account. However Spartan may be our financial virtue, still we are but human; and, in my opinion, the whole system of Extraordinary Account is a perilous temptation to human weakness. A great English thinker, Mr. Burke, in his character of George Grenville, has held up to contempt those persons who mistake regulations for commerce, and figures for finance; and certainly I do not pretend to say that good book-keeping is, in itself, tantamount to good finance. But I do say that it goes a long way towards good finance, and that it is the primary condition of a sound financial situation. I think that our book-keeping has hitherto not been so good as it might be; and I say this with some confidence, although I say it in the presence of a gentleman whom I believe to be one of the ablest and the most conscientious Financial Secretaries which this, or any other Government, has ever had the good fortune to possess. It is quite impossible for me to express in terms too strong the acknowledgements which, on my own behalf, I desire to add to those of Sir John Strachey, of the valuable services which this Government has received, and is receiving, from Mr. Chapman. But I am certain that Mr. Chapman himself feels as strongly as any man that our system of account keeping which he, himself, has so greatly improved, is not yet as simple as might be. Indeed, I may say that I have always found in him one of the strongest advocates for its reform. I am sure that he feels, what I feel myself, that no man, who has studied as intelligently as he has studied the past history of Indian finance, will regard as unfounded the fears expressed by my hon'ble colleague, that the system hitherto followed, of jumbling up together remunerative and unremunerative public works in an account, to which the term 'extraordinary' is extremely applicable, has tended to make us less chary than we should otherwise have been in spending money upon them. For my own part, I am not at all afraid of the deficits which we might have to show by a change of system. What I do regard with fear and distrust is everything which may tend to conceal those deficits unduly from our own eyes or from those of the public. The first step towards getting rid of deficit is to look it frankly in the face. Nature abhors a vacuum and the recognition of a financial vacuum is so revolting to ordinary human nature, that our best chance of filling it up consists in never losing sight of it. My hon'ble colleague has shown that, during the last seven years, while our expenditure has remained stationary, our income has steadily increased; and I am convinced that our financial character has everything to gain, and nothing to fear, from public criticism, if only public criticism be furnished with accurate data for the guidance of impartial judgments. There is another subject by no means unimportant, although the Government is not in a position to afford Hon'ble Members an opportunity of practically expressing their opinions, by recording their votes, upon it. It was for that reason, no doubt, that my hon'ble friend reserved it for the close of his financial statement; but in the arrangement of my own remarks upon that statement it will, I think, be convenient that I should say at once what little I have to say about it. I refer to the present position of this Government in reference to the Cotton Duties. Now I am not going to tax the patience of the Council with a long disquisition on those duties. I shall abstain from doing so, for three very sufficient reasons. In the first place, there is now under discussion no measure which is even remotely connected with the Cotton Duties. In the second place, I have the misfortune to differ on this subject from the opinions entertained about it by many able and hon'ble gentlemen who have given to the consideration of it prolonged attention. Some of them are men of great eminence. Several of them are possessed of wide experience and high authority on fiscal and commercial questions, and not a few of them are my esteemed personal friends. Consistently, therefore, with the sincere respect I entertain for those who advocate the indefinite maintenance of the present import duties on Cotton goods, I could not adequately justify my dissent from their convictions without entering into a somewhat lengthened and detailed examination of the points on which we differ. But to do this, when there is no no measure before us either to defend or oppose, would, in my opinion, be an inexcusable waste of the valuable time to this Council. There is only one view of the question to which I feel bound to demur. It is that which assumes that, on the one hand, those statesmen who have advocated the permanent maintenance of our present Cotton Duties, have done so regardless of the debt which, as English statesmen, they owe to English interests; or that, on the other hand, those who, like myself, earnestly desire the removal of these duties from our customs tariff, are recklessly indifferent to the duty which, as Indian Legislators, we owe to Indian interests. On this point I cannot too cordially re-echo the language held by my hon'ble friend Mr Bullen-Smith. My pride and confidence in the character of my countrymen are far too great to admit within the scope of my liveliest imaginative efforts, such a notion as that the maintenance of the Cotton duties has ever been advocated by English statesmen without reference to English interests. But I must also add that I am not prepared to concede to the advocates of these duties a monopoly of disinterested devotion to the interests of India To say the truth, I am all the less disposed to do so for this reason: with those from whom I reluctantly differ on the question of the Cotton Duties, I cannot, and do not, presume to claim equality in tested ability, or recognized authority: but I do claim equality with all of them in the conscientious desire to deal justly and truly by the interests of this Empire. Therefore I will not yield to any man an inch of foothold on that one and only ground within whose special limits every honest man is entitled to consider himself the equal of its most illustrious occupant. Nor, indeed, am I able to recognize much reality in the ingenious distinction which has been suggested between the interests of Manchester and the interests of England. The so-called interests of Manchester are a great vital organic part of the whole English body-politic; and, though it may be convenient to do so in theory, it appears to me quite impossible in fact, or in act, to separate the part from the whole. If a man stabs me in the hand or the foot, I am not comforted by his assurance that he recognises a distinction between my limbs and myself; that he has only been attacking my foot, or my hand; and that he had no intention of inflicting any personal injury on me. He *does* inflict a personal injury upon me; and the pain and hurt of that injury I feel, not only in the spot where I am wounded, but in every part of my body. But I do not think this question is primarily or exclusively a Manchester question. Political Economy is either a science or it is not. If it is a science, the laws of it are not affected by locality or climate. They will assert themselves as inexorably in one part of the world as in another, whether they are followed or disregarded. No one, I presume, will assert that a financial principle, if sound at all, is not equally sound in every case to which it is applicable. In the present stage of economic science, few men venture to advocate openly protective duties, on the ground that they are protective. The advocates of such duties, generally, try to persuade themselves and their opponents that the duties which practically protect a young manufacture are not maintained for the purpose of protecting it. Now I am not so pedantic a political economist as to deny, or even to doubt, that in many quiet conceivable circumstances, *bonâ fide* protective duties may be proper duties. But I like to call a spade a spade. And I congratulate my hon'ble friend Maharajah Narendra Krishna upon having the courage of his opinions. I have no doubt that my hon'ble friend, the Maharajah, unconsciously uttered the secret sentiment of many hearts besides his own, when he frankly told us that he hoped our present Cotton Duty would be maintained, because he believed it to be necessary for the protection of our cotton manufactures. My experienced predecessor, however, in a statement of great ability, which he made two years ago, on this subject, observed that "Indian statesmen have all acknowledged the principles of recent English financial legislation to be sound, although, owing to the differences between the two countries, it has been impossible to carry them out as completely in India as in England. Indian statesman," he said, "have never regarded Customs Duties as desirable for the purpose of protecting the products or manufactures of India. In India, equally as in England, protection has been regarded as an exploded doctrine, contrary to the general interests of the country which imposes protective duties." I accept, and endorse, this statement; and, if I object to the present Cotton Duties, it is because they appear to me inconsistent with sound financial principles, and, as such, injurious to the interests of India. Now, this opinion may be right or wrong. Like all human opinions, it is open to discussion; but, as my hon'ble friend Sir John Strachey has appealed to my opinion, I feel it due to him, due to myself, and due to the public, that I should assure this Council that my hon'ble friend has not mis-interpreted or mis-stated my opinion. In saying that the Secretary of State has left to the Government of India a large discretion on this subject, my hon'ble friend Mr. Bullen-Smith did no more than justice to the common sense of my noble friend the Secretary of State. Yes, the Secretary of State has left to us a large discretion, but he has not left to us an unlimited discretion. The Secretary of State has distinctly affirmed and established the principle by which he intends our action to be guided; and the discretion he has left to us extends only to the time and mode which we may deem most suitable and most efficacious for carrying that principle into practical effect. In the exercise of that discretion, we have reluctantly recognized, but frankly acknowledged, the practical impossibility of any present reduction of the import duty on cotton goods. No one, so far as I am aware, no one in England or in India, has ever advocated, or even suggested, the reduction of this duty at the cost of fresh taxation for the purpose; and most certainly no such course is, or has ever been, contemplated by myself. I am sorry to say that I cannot dispute the opinion expressed by my hon'ble friend Mr. Bullen-Smith that our financial system is not yet free from other features quite as vicious, if not, indeed, more vicious, than these Cotton Duties, from a purely fiscal point of view. But I doubt if they are equally objectionable, from a social and political point of view. Be that as it may, however, my hon'ble friend cannot desire more ardently than I do myself to see our fiscal policy purged of their presence. They all stand upon our condemned list; and I hope it may be in our power, as it will certainly be within our aim, to deal simultaneously with at least the worst of them. But I dare not indulge in vaticination. The awful warning contained in the homily addressed last Wednesday by my hon'ble friend the Lieutenant-Governor to my hon'ble colleague Sir John Strachey is still ringing in my intimidated ear. Mrs. Malaprop long ago averred that we should not anticipate misfortunes till they are past; and certainly that is a policy which appears to have greatly commended itself of late years to English statesmanship. But my hon'ble friend the Lieutenant-Governor goes further than Mrs. Malaprop, and forbids us even to anticipate good fortune. Therefore, as I am sitting just now within close reach of his ferule, I will endeavour not to anticipate anything at all. Perhaps, however, I may be permitted to mention one fact which, I hope, will satisfy Hon'ble Members, that we have not been regardless of salt or sugar in our efforts at fiscal reform. No man can be more impatient than I am myself to see removed, as soon as possible, from the records of Anglo-Indian history such a scandal as our present Inland Customs frontier. Previous to the present appointment so ably held by my hon'ble friend Sir John Strachey,—indeed some months before his return to India, and before either of us could have anticipated that we should be sitting to-day at the same Council Board,—I had entered into personal negociations with the Rulers of those Native States whose co-operation is an unavoidable condition to any practical measures for the removal of this commercial "Abomination of desolation standing where it ought not." These negociations are now so far, and so satisfactorily, advanced as to justify, I think, some confidence in the anticipation that, ere long, we shall be able to effect an early breach in what my hon'ble friend has not unfairly, I think, described as our commercial wall of China. But more than this I dare not say at the present moment, for fear of incurring renewed rebuke from my hon'ble friend and close neighbour, the Lieutenant-Governor; and, therefore, without pausing to put even a pinch of salt on the visionary tail of this bird in the bush, I will ask permission to say a few words on behalf of the two little birds I now hold in my hand. One of the most pressing and important questions I had to consider on behalf of his Government, when I assumed charge of it, was—Whether we can afford to go on borrowing, as heretofore, something like four million sterling annually for the prosecution of Extraordinary Public Works. I came to the conclusion that we cannot afford it. Then I had to consider whether we can afford to do without such works, or to prosecute them on a greatly reduced scale. I am satisfied that this is equally impossible. These works are our only safeguard against famine; and their vigorous prosecution is, in my opinion, essential to the prosperity of the Empire. What should we do then? From the dilemma in which we are thus placed, reflection has convinced me that there is only one practical issue. It is, however, an issue which, I believe, to be not only practical, but highly advantageous; and I find it in the prompt adoption and steady development of financial decentralization accompanied by localised administrative responsibility. Of this principle, it is the privilege of my hon'ble colleague, Sir John Strachey, to be one of the official parents. But I think I may honestly say, on my own behalf, that it is not as a convert I am prepared to maintain it; at least my conversion to it dates far back in the course of my official life. It is not only in India that the conflicting principles of centralization and decentralization have been debated, or considered, in reference to financial and administrative policy. I have watched in other countries the conflict of those principles, and witnessed the issue of it. Observing that even in Spain, which should more properly, perhaps, be called "the Spains," it has been found impossible, up to the present moment, to codify the laws which govern the most essential relations, and determine the most fundamental interests, of society; observing, too, that over a geographical area comparatively, so restricted as that of the Austrian Empire, it has been found, after repeated effort, equally impossible to apply one centralized homogeneous system of taxation to all the Imperial provinces; it certainly does seem to me surprising that English statesmanship, generally so free from the Continental passion for legislative symmetry, should have persisted in attempting to apply to every part of an empire vast, various, and composite, as this of India, the same form and mode of taxation. Doubtless, there is one conspicuous and most satisfactory exception to this otherwise general rule of our past financial policy. But it is an exception which tells most strongly in favour of the principle we are now endeavouring to introduce. The Government of India has never applied the contrary principle to its administration of the Land Revenue; and I think I may safely say that, on the whole, no branch of the public service has been so wisely, or so well, administered as the Land Revenue. I listened with the attention which his clear and practical utterances always command from me, to the few observations made last Wednesday by my hon'ble friend Maharaja Jotendro Mohun Tagore upon the policy which has led us to introduce these bills; and to which they will give effect, partial as yet no doubt, but salutary, I hope, so far as it can now be extended. I did not gather from what he then said that he had any cause to complain of the application to Bengal of the principle of localised financial responsibility: and indeed, I think, it can hardly be doubted that, if there be one province in India to which, more than any other, this principle may be justly and equitably applied, it is the wealthy and privileged province of Bengal. I trust then that the measures we hope to pass into law this morning will be prolific of beneficial results, which may hereafter be more widely extended. This will not be through any merits of their own; for, in themselves, they are somewhat insignificant little measures: but because of the principles they recognize, and which they will help us to carry out. Before I assumed the anxious charge of this administration, it was said to me by experienced friends—and said with a prophetic truth which has been prematurely verified by my personal experience—that the one thing which of all others it behoves every Governor-General of India to be constantly foreseeing is the unforeseen. Scarcely had I reached Calcutta, ere the rosy financial horizon, which might otherwise have been opened to the admiring gaze of a pleased and hopeful public, had been unexpectedly darkened by the appearance of a little cloud, with a depreciated silver lining to it, that was by no means re-assuring. That cloud grew and greatened till it hung over our heads like a portent of doom; and so grievously did its growth oppress the minds of men, that really I think, I may say, without much exaggeration, that not even the siege of Jerusalem itself was more prolific in warnings, wailings, predictions of disaster, and desperate proposals for reckless remedies, than the financial period covered by the first six months of my administration. And then, just when our financial prospects appeared to promise better things—just when the cloud was clearing away from the horizon, when our patience seemed about to be rewarded, and our confidence revived, a wholly unforeseen calamity occurred; and a great part of the southern region of this Empire was suddenly smitten with wide-spread famine. Nor is this all. Misfortunes never come single; nor anxieties either; and these things happened during a season of extreme political tension, when no night passed on which we could say with certainty that we should not receive on the morrow some telegram from London or Constantinople of a character very unfavourable to the tranquil prosecution and improvement of our domestic affairs. From that source of anxiety we have, I am thankful to say, been entirely relieved by the patriotic exertions of my noble friend the present Secretary of State for India. But I am not at all surprised that Hon'ble Members should have alluded in anxious tones to the fallen value of silver measured in gold; for I fear that we cannot reasonably anticipate any immediate release from the disturbance occasioned by this phenomenon in our exchanges with Great Britain and other countries which have a gold standard of value. I fully recognise the magnitude of the inconvenience thereby occasioned to trade; and I deeply deplore the loss inflicted on many public officers and others who can ill-afford it. But I certainly do think that experience has fully justified the resolution to which we came last September, not to tamper prematurely with our standard of value. This question is not, in our opinion, a question that simply affects foreign exchanges. A country's standard unit of value cannot be either enhanced or reduced without injury to many important interests; and India is certainly no exception to the rest of the world. I do not disguise from myself that we may have to face a long period of anxiety and difficulty, during which the various interests, already affected by the depreciation in the value of silver measured in gold, will be slowly and painfully re-adjusting themselves to the altered relations between the precious metals; and I can assure my hon'ble friend Mr. Hope that we are by no means indifferent to the importance of the questions in dispute between the monometalists and the bimetallists, or to any of the various modes of utilising the two precious metals with a fixed intervaluation for the establishment of a double or compensatory standard. Indeed, the stoppage of the great compensation valve, formerly opened in France to the world at large, renders all such questions of special interest to this country. And although it is undoubtedly not in our power to announce any immediate or isolated action in regard to it, still we are fully alive to the importance of this subject. I have but very few words to say upon our other great source of financial anxiety. Now, I think it cannot be doubted that the present famine is one of the most serious and widespread scarcities with which India has yet been afflicted. In extent and intensity, it greatly exceeds the last famine in Bengal and Behar; and, should there be a failure in the rainfall, due next month, I fear that the scarcity in Madras may assume still more serious dimensions. Yet, although the management of the last famine cost six and three-quarter millions, we are able to estimate the net cost of the much larger famine, with which we are now dealing, at no more than five and a quarter millions; and we feel confident that, should we hereafter have to deal with a famine as serious as this, the cost of it will be very much smaller still. Now I cannot but think that this is an encouraging fact. It is partly due to the previous completion of adequate railway communications, partly also to the application of principles which experience has proved to be sound, and to the energy and discretion with which those principles have been carried out in many of the famine districts. They were spontaneously resorted to by the Government of Bombay; and now that they have been loyally adopted by the Government of Madras, I feel no doubt that they will be no less efficiently and scrupulously acted on in that important Presidency. I cannot mention this subject without expressing the sincere gratitude of the Government of India for the eminent services rendered to it, and to the whole empire, by the indefatigable and most successful labours of Sir Richard Temple. But the person to whom we are, in my opinion, primarily indebted for our present comparatively moderate estimate of famine expenditure, and for our hopes of still more moderate famine estimates in the future, is my immediate prodecessor, Lord Northbrook. It must not be forgotten, and it ought, I think, to be thankfully acknowledged, that, although the famine, with which we are dealing, is much larger, and more serious than the famine dealt with by Lord Northbrook, the conditions under which we are dealing with it are much more favourable. In his management of the famine in Bengal and Behar, Lord Northbrook found himself placed under a tremendous pressure of public opinion in favour of reckless expenditure; but he did not shrink from the no less tremendous responsibility of withstanding it. No public man can ever be entirely independent of public opinion; and, had Lord Northbrook's hands been wholly free, I have no doubt that he would have greatly diminished the cost of the late famine, without in any wise increasing the loss of human life. But, in the teeth of all antagonisms, he prevented famine expenditure from reaching far more extravagant dimensions. And by resisting public opinion, he educated it. What is the result? The Government of India, relieved from all undue pressure, is now in a position to carry out calmly, and develope more fully, the principles bequeathed by him for our guidance. One of these enjoins upon us the importance of providing for famine expenditure out of income, and charging it to Ordinary Account. This principle has been re-affirmed by my hon'ble colleague, Sir John Strachey. It may be said, however, that though he has re-affirmed it, he is not acting on it; since he finds himself still obliged to borrow on account of famine expenditure. It may be said that it is easier to lay down principles than to carry them out, and that our present action is a proof of this. It may be said that, principles thus publicly proclaimed are too often like triumphal arches; which make a very handsome effect, and look very fine, but which practically lead to nothing. It may be said that, once erected into doctrine, there they remain,—lofty and monumental, with plenty of empty space all round to show them off; but that practical life, going about its business as before, takes care to pass on each side of them, and, whilst admiring them, rarely makes use of them. Well, I must admit that our present position is exposed to criticism of that sort. The fact is, however, that Lord Northbrook left India before it was practically in his power or in the power of any man, to make sufficient provision for enabling his successors to carry out, at the shortest possible notice, the principle he had laid down; and this recurrent calamity has smitten us suddenly before it was in our own power to provide for it in conformity with that principle. But all we ask is fair time and fair play, for the future. The salutary principle we hope to affirm to day—that principle which hands over to Local Governments the responsible management of local works, coupled with financial responsibility for the result of their management of them,—will, I believe, go far towards facilitating the fulfilment of the principle laid down by Lord Northbrook, and unreservedly adopted by ourselves, as the guide of our future conduct in regard to famine expenditure. For if such expenditure is to be provided for out of ordinary resources, it is quite clear to me that the Governments of the famine-stricken Provinces must, to some extent at least, be held henceforth responsible for the financial results of their famine management. My hon'ble colleague wisely and properly refrained from prematurely indicating the steps we may hereafter be prepared to take to enable the Government of India to carry out the principle laid down by Lord Northbrook on the subject; but I can assure the Council that we are not regardless of our duty with reference to them. There is only one other subject on which I need any longer detain the attention of the Council. Sir John Strachey has rightly drawn attention to the ominous circumstance of our increasing military expenditure; and I shall not attempt to deny that this circumstance is one which I regard with profound concern. An examination, however, of the figures given by my hon'ble colleague, in the Minute he has laid before the Council, will show that the net increase in our Military Budget is mainly due to charges not under the control of the Government of India. In regard to those branches of our Military expenditure, which are under the control of this Government, I am bound to acknowledge our great obligation, to the colleague, of whose services we have recently been deprived, for the unceasing vigilance which which he, and the responsible officers acting under him, have successfully restrained the growth of them. Those who witnessed the representative military force assembled at Delhi last January, cannot have failed to admire the discipline, intelligence, and equipment of the Army of India: but to discipline, to intelligence, and to equipment must be added some power of rapid mobilization in case of any sudden emergency, before the practical efficiency of an army can be regarded as altogether complete. Now some measures taken by us, in consultation with the Commander-in-Chief, and our other military authorities, to remedy certain undeniable deficiencies in the mobility of our defensive force, have been misrepresented and magnified, by uninstructed rumour, into preparations for a great campaign against our neighbours. I beg to assure this Council that nothing could possibly be further from our minds than the intention thus imputed to us. It is obvious that, if we harboured any such design as this, the estimates laid before the Council would be very different from what they are. And to rush into purposeless border warfare, or wantonly to provoke hostilities with any of our immediate neighbours, would be an act of insanity, doubly inexcusable on the part of a Government for which I am prepared to claim the merit of having secured, within the last few months, the most beneficent results from the patient pursuance of precisely the opposite policy. Two years ago our relations with the neighbouring Khanate of Khelat were so extremely unsatisfactory that military operations against that country were commended to our immediate adoption by some of our most experienced frontier authorities. But, before having recourse to any act of aggression upon a weak and neighbouring State, the Government of India wisely resolved to make further pacific efforts for the restoration of order around our western frontier. Those efforts, commenced by Lord Northbrook, it has been my privilege to conduct to a successful issue; and the result of it is, that without having fired a single shot, or shed a single drop of blood, our present relations with Khelat are more satisfactory, more fraught with promise for the future, and security for the present, than they have been for a long series of years. Not only is British influence now predominant throughout that country; not only is this influence cordially welcomed, and appreciated, by all its inhabitants, from the highest to the lowest;—but the beneficently practical results of the influence thus established, are already apparent in the restored freedom and security of peaceful commerce, in the rebuilding of villages destroyed by civil war, in the revival and extension of agriculture, and in the general contentment and confidence of the population and its lawful Rulers. I may be asked, however, what are the means upon which this Government relies for the maintenance of British influence; and why we desire to extend and confirm British influence beyond our own immediate territory? To the first question I reply that the means on which we reckon for the maintenance of British influence are loyal and disinterested advice, supported, if needs be, by timely and sufficient assistance, for the promotion, or conformation, of good government, and social order, in contiguous territories less civilised than our own. To the second question, I reply that we desire the promotion of this salutary British influence beyond our border, because we do not desire the hostile movement of British armies beyond our border. The connection existing between the tribes and populations inside and outside the frontier which it is our duty to guard, is so close, and so far reaching that any disturbance of the latter vibrates instantaneously along the whole extent of contiguous British territory. Unrestrained barbarism immediately beyond our frontier means constant insecurity immediately within our frontier. Civil war on the part of neighbouring Asiatic populations, or even a passive, but pronounced hostility towards the British Government, involves the closing of our trade routes, the maltreatment of our merchants, the spoliation of their property, and the chronic disquietude of our subjects. Therefore it is that the one only thing which at no time past or present this Government has ever been able to do, however greatly it might desire to do it, is to remain a passive and inert spectator of what passes immediately beyond our border. Now, I consider that the safest and strongest frontier India can possibly possess would be a belt of independent frontier States, throughout which the British name is honoured and trusted; within which British subjects are welcomed and respected, because they are subjects of a Government known to be unselfish as it is powerful, and resolute as it is humane; by which our advice is followed without suspicion, and our word relied on without misgiving, because the first has been justified by good results, and the second never quibbled away by timorous sub-intents or tricky saving clauses,—a belt of States, in short, whose chiefs and populations should have every interest, and every desire, to co-operate with our own officers in preserving the peace of the frontier, developing the resources of their own territories, augmenting the wealth of their own treasuries, and vindicating, in the eyes of the eastern and western world, their title to an independence, of which we are, ourselves, the chief well-wishers and supporters. Looking to the history of recent events along our lower Punjab and Sind frontiers, I cannot think that this aim is unattainable; or that the desire of attaining it is inconsistent with common sense. But, although I believe that the influence I desire to exert and extend is perfectly attainable. I do not believe that it is attainable by means of military expeditions; or, indeed, by anything except constant friendly contact with our less civilized neighbours, and the presence and every-day acts, in their midst, of earnest upright English gentlemen. Now, during the last six months, we have passed through a time when the Powers of Europe, armed as they still are to the teeth, seemed drifting into a war, of which the eddies could not fail to reach and trouble the minds of our Asiatic neighbours, whilst, at the same time, our frontier seemed threatened with a succession of local outrages and disturbances, greatly in excess of any by which it has been afflicted for many years past. At that time it was, in my opinion, the duty of this Government to place itself in a position of preparedness to defend the interests committed to its charge by military action, should military action, at any moment, be necessary instead of waiting, unprepared, till the opportunity of effective military action had passed away. I am not ashamed to say that we did not shrink from the recognition of this duty. Had the Pass Afreedees continued recalcitrant; had the recent inroads on British territory been renewed; had the late disturbances on our frontier assumed, as at one time they seemed likely to assume, a more systematic character, then we might have found ourselves at any moment under an imperative obligation to resort to military operations, in order to punish the murder, or preserve the lives, and properties, of our own subjects; or restore and secure the peace of our frontier. This, however, I can truly say, no one would have recognised more reluctantly, or more deeply regretted the necessity of recourse to such measures, than myself. The British Government repudiates all views of conquest, or territorial extension. Our territories are already vast enough to occupy all our attention, and satisfy all our ambition. Our paramount position on this Continent is so indisputable that it is rarely, indeed, we need ever have recourse to arms for the protection of those who trust us, or the punishment of those who deceive us. There is not an independent Native State which is not strengthened by the bestowal, or weakened by the withdrawal, of our friendship. It has been my object, ever since I assumed charge of affairs in this country, to draw closer, by every legitimate means in my power, the bonds of friendly relation between ourselves and our neighbours. I think there are few persons who will maintain that our present relations with the tribes and peoples immediately upon our north-western border are altogether satisfactory, whether we regard them from a political, or from a philanthropical, point of view. Those neighbouring regions have, after 25 years of the closest geographical contact between us and them, remained almost the only ones in the whole world which are forbidden grounds to British footsteps, except on some mission of vengeance, and for the purpose of burning the homes, or destroying the property, of our neighbours, in retaliation for outrages committed by them upon our own territory. Surely this is not a state of things which any Englishman can contemplate with unmitigated satisfaction, or which any English statesman should wish to perpetuate. I am thankful to say that these retaliatory raids have been somewhat less frequent of late years; still, already twice within my own short tenure of office, I have een called upon to consider the necessity of recourse to them. Now, no one can realize more deeply, r acknowledge more unreservedly, than I do myself, he practical difficulties of dealing with such wild cial material as that which fringes the greater part of Indian frontier. If I am inclined to trust more to iation, and friendly intercourse and less to a policy ate vengeance and inaction, than some of my predecessors, in the government of this country, it is certainly not from any assumption of superior wisdom or humanity on my part. I am well aware that these military expeditions have been considered the only means of bringing our influence to bear efficiently upon turbulent neighbours, by men whose names are no less celebrated for their Christian humanity than for their knowledge of the tribes to whom that system has been applied. Therefore if, with their example and opinion before me, I still prefer to make attempts in the direction of a more patiently pacific, but less impassive, policy, it is not because I undervalue their judgment, or overrate my own, but because the object I have in view appears to me so supremely important, and so generally beneficial to all concerned, as to justify a more systematic prosecution of it than has yet been attempted. If I fail in my own efforts to attain it, I shall not be ashamed; for I had rather be able to say that I have tried, and failed, in such a cause than be obliged to own that I had never tried at all. I do not think that, consistently with its high duties to God and man, as the greatest civilizing Power in Asia, this Government can watch coldly and immovably its closests neighbours floundering in anarchy and bloodshed on its immediate border, without extending to them, in their hour of need, a kindly and a helpful hand, if they seek its assistance and invoke its guidance. Such a policy would be, in my opinion, an atheistic and inhuman one. But, whilst humanity condemns a stolid indifference to the interests of our neighbours, prudence equally forbids undeserved and unrequited favours to those who make no effort to reciprocate our confidence, and justify our protection. If I do not rely upon military expeditions for reasonable extension, or maintenance, of British influence around our frontier, neither do I rely upon spasmodic gifts and aimless expenditure of money, or a profitless assumption of embarrassing obligations. These, then, are the feelings which induced me to invite a friendly interchange of views between ourselves and our near neighbour the Ameer of Cabul, on matters of common interest, and for the improvement of our mutual relations as also to comply with the suggestion made to us by His Highness, that Envoys on the part of the two Governments should meet at Peshawur for this purpose. These also are the principles which determined the instructions given to Sir Lewis Pelly. The personal and official intercourse between the two Envoys has been friendly. But I regret to say it has been prematurely terminated by a sad event. The Cabul Envoy, who was in seriously ill health when he arrived on British territory, died at Peshawur, last Saturday, of a malady from which he had long been suffering. What might otherwise have been the practical results of his conferences with Sir Lewis Pelly, I am no more able to say than any other Member of this Council. But I can positively state to the Council what will *not* be the practical result of these, or any other conceivable, negociations with the Ameer of Cabul. On the one hand they will assuredly not result in any unprovoked aggression by us upon the independence, or territories of His Highness, nor in any uninvited intervention in Afghanistan. On the other hand, they will no less assuredly not result in any unreciprocated concessions or uncalled for obligations on our part. That His Highness has lost in the late Envoy a wise, and honest, and an experienced councillor, is a fact which I certainly regret all the more; because it cannot be denied that the mind of the Ameer has been deeply stirred by recent events at Constantinople, which, inflaming the sentiment of religious fanaticism at Cabul, have somewhat disturbed his usually clear judgment and good sense. The position, however, of this Government in the matter is a very simple and intelligible one. We think that between closely neighbouring States, having in common certain interests, to which neither of them can afford to be wholly indifferent, the best security against mutual misunderstanding and mistrust is to be found in adequate means of free, frank, and frequent, intercourse. We think that in some representations recently made to us by the Ameer, with reference to episodes in our relations with His Highness during the last few years, there is confirmation of this impression; and we believe that the peculiar and exceptional isolation in which His Highness has been induced to seek a source of strength, is more likely to prove a source of weakness to his rule, by acting prejudicially on the internal peace and progress of his dominions. We have, therefore, assured him that if he really desires to strengthen the bonds of his relations with us, we shall, at all times, be ready to reciprocate that desire, and to assist him in promoting the attainment of its object; but that, if he has no such desire, we cannot act on the assumption of a sentiment, the evidence of which is not before us; that the matter is one which concerns His Highness rather than ourselves; and that we cannot accept, or acknowledge, unreciprocated liabilities. I feel that I owe some apology to the Council for having intruded upon it this explanation of the real facts, and plain principles, of our frontier policy; although, indeed, my explanation has reference to a subject closely, and most practically, connected with the Financial Statement of my hon'ble colleague. For it is obvious that on the character of such facts and principles, must, at all times, depend the military expenditure, which it is his duty to provide for, and my duty to justify. But my excuse is this: The Viceroy of India has very few opportunities of telling the public the truth, about the facts, and principles of his policy on important questions in which the public is legitimately interested. In countries governed by representative institutions it is the easy function of a free Press to criticise the action of a free Government; of whose action all the facts and principles are not only well known, but elaborately explained, to the community at large. In India, however, the position of the Press is a peculiarly difficult and embarrassing one; for it is expected to criticise daily the policy and action of a Government, whose policy and action are, in nine instances out of ten, wholly unknown to it. And thus even with the best intention, its judgment is exceptionally liable to error. The members of such a Government as ours cannot sit in the gate like the lawgivers of old; they cannot be continually crying out to the public 'Pray good people allow us to prove to you that we are neither fools nor knaves,' "only hear us for our cause, and be silent that you may hear." But there is, at least, one thing which can be done by the head of this Government to mitigate the mutual disadvantages of an anomalous position. He can, even at the risk of sometimes disregarding official etiquette, seize every opportunity which comes within his reach to win confidence, by showing confidence, and to dispel fictions by stating facts. Such an opportunity has been offered me to-day, and I have embraced it eagerly, perhaps even recklessly, because I think that every member of the non-official community ought to feel interested (and I am glad to believe that every member of it does feel interested) in all questions that concern the public welfare. For the managemet of such questions, this Government must, no doubt, in the first instance, be generously trusted by the public; whose interests it is here to protect or improve. But, sooner or later, the Government must satisfy the public that it has not been regardless of the responsibilities involved in so great a trust; and the sooner it can do this the better it will be for all concerned. Since I came to India the magnitude of these responsibilites has been daily, hourly, I may say unceasingly, present to my mind; and if I err in my own judgment as to the course we ought to follow in the discharge of them, I am fortunately surrounded by able and experienced Councillors who are ever ready to correct me. Believing, as I do, that at all times the purity of our purpose, and the character of our policy, will bear the light, I hope that I shall ever be ready to court, and never disposed to shirk, the daylight of public opinion. The Latin proverb avers that all is magnified by the unknown. My own experience assures me that all is distorted by the half-known, and it is not the daylight, but the twilight, that I shun. With these explanations and apologies, I have now to put the motion I hold in my hand.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

ON THE FRONTIER.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT ON THE FRONTIER.)

PESHAWUR, 22ND MARCH.

SOME time ago Lahore took counsel with itself and voluntarily pleaded guilty to what one of our Bombay vakeels would term an "aggravated charge" of being an unreasonably dull, and, withal, a most stupid place, and at the same time as if to show the wilfulness of its depravity and the hopelessness of any benighted wight attempting to disturb the serene inertness of the place, it dwelt strongly on the abominable wickedness of moonlight serenading and so forth, and the dangers and temptations springing from balls and routs and other giddy-headed diversions, such as the *bara sahibs* at Simla and similar disreputable haunts are vaguely supposed by "subjects of the plains" to indulge in. Alackaday! had I Lahore, posted here for a month or two, by a *Gazette* extraordinary or any other extraordinary measure, I am afraid that it would yield the palm with regard to dulness to Peshawur. There is now, alas! no General Avatibile here to waylay the wandering traveller, or to entice the patient suffering from that fearful malady *ennui*, only a degree worse than that other malady of all old Indians—*mal de mer* into his clutches, or to set them daily tasks at vanquishing and overcoming—not Her Most Gracious Majesty's enemies but the far famed viands and fruits of this ill-begotten country; or to endanger the purity of their morals and mar the sweetness of the *dolce far niente* to which all such are now infallibly committed, by demanding their attendance at a balmy hour of night on the gesticulating performances and wanton gyrations of his Cashmerian dancers. These things are of the past, and it was with a melancholy feeling of the moral depravity of the present age that in the most eloquent and appropriate terms which my limited knowledge of the vernacular afforded, I implored a native—a near relation of that oldest inhabitant for whose venerable presence I still pant in vain—to show me where the old gentleman's—I mean the General's—house was situate. He dwelt for some time on the fact that Peshawur was now not what it used to be "in the brave days of old" when the Lion of the Punjaub" dimly mourned the good old times when he might have taken the city of the Moguls, even Delhi, under his own protecting care, and made his callous old heart warm with the spoil of the despisers of the Sikh. Glowing with enthusiasm my dark skinned friend kept moving with a dramatic air towards the side of the road on which we had not been walking; until finally, having hedged me so close against the wall that I was about to enter a mild protest and insinuate the impossibility of my going through the brick and mud erection. Loose as it appeared he stopt, and gazing intently in my face, concluded, 'Runjit Singh is gone! Dhuleep Singh is gone! Avatibile Sahib is gone!" but there's his house, I looked and two miles off I thought I could see something like the upper portion of a house appearing over the tops of some trees which intercepted the view, but I was not certain, and it struck me sadly that the mansion indicated had an appearance painfully indicative of its fallen state. To soothe my depressed spirits, I returned home, and calling the Khansamah, I seized a copy of Elphinstone's Cabul, and rapidly turned the pages over. Ah! I had it, and hastily calling for the first delicious delicacy here enumerated as having produced watery symptoms around the region of the author's mouth, I demanded a melon, a dish of plums, peaches, pomegranates, quinces, apples!—Peshawur, alas! could offer nothing but a few aged, oranges and the acrid *beer*, which so delights the naked youngsters of the Dekkan. It is a fallacy to fancy that Peshawur is pleasanter than Bombay. If you go out, the sun literally burns you; if you stop at home, you gaze wistfully at the empty fireplace and slimer about till dinner time. The glorious gardens of which we have all read scores of descriptions and pictured as only rivalled in beauty, fragrance and delicious products by the Happy Valley—are here, indeed, but crops of wheat and naked soil are all that I have yet discovered of them, always excepting the roses which the bheesties, mehters, coolies, syces, and all the budmashes of the district daily pour upon me in the vain hope that their liberality with what costs them nothing, will induce me to be equally profligate with what I have to labour for. "The rose by any other name would smell as sweet" may be true, and therefore I won't say that the vernacular title of that prickly delight is responsible for its want of perfume here, but this I do aver—I have seen and handled scores of roses here but I have yet to get the first odour of their fragrance.

Altogether Peshawur is disappointing to the enthusiastic visitor. Its flowers are scentless and its fruit *non est*; its climatic attitude is at present decidedly unpleasant, its dulness intolerable, and its cheapness open to doubt. But, then, I hear some book-read tourist exclaim, its scenery? What of the mighty mountains of the Khyber? They are visible. I wish they were not—for then I could still believe in them, and very small and tame they look from here—no frowning precipices, no towering peaks, no mounting terraces, no lowering summits, for all these you must hie thee hence my friend a two days' journey, where amidst the mighty grandeur of the "finest mountain scenery in India" you may find all these. Take my advice, go to your bookseller and read the many varied descriptions of the Khyber and its splendour, its dangers and its dark defiles, and then you will appreciate its gloomy terrors as you should, but don't come to Peshawur or your pleasant dream will pass away as you glance at the nearer Khyber hills, with the mighty crest of the Supeid Coh appearing over them long miles away. One glance at the Bombay ghauts is well worth all the scenery that can be obtained here. Stop at Attock if your search be for the sublime or beautiful. Here there is neither, though exaggeration has long pictured both as the prevailing genii of the place.

We are "on the frontier" here, and were it the frontier line of the field of war we would not suffer more than all that those three little words are here made to signify. "Thus far shalt thou go and no further." Such is the mandate which limits one on every side. Jumrood is visible to the naked eye from the parapet of the Fort, but there is no *hukum* to go there. Half way from Peshawur a military guard is stationed with the infer—I beg pardon, I mean eternal —"*hukum nahai, sahib*," and you may ask for anything in conscience from the "Mishshiner Saheb," but that "no passes" is the order. Similarly you are confined by laws, rules and regulations whether you go north or south, and on the last remaining side, the east, the *hukum* is "travel by day and not by night," and a guard of mounted troops is stationed on the road between Nowshera and Peshawur, and, as I have already told you on the bridge at Attock there is likewise a military guard. Here the *Sircar* is a name by no means supreme, and above all others for that of the Afreedees and Khyberees is far more potent. If I could but accept the moral estimate of these redoubted individuals from what their fellow "darkies" of Peshawur assert them to be, I should have to descend desperately low in the scale of moral nomenclature to find a term to suit them. I have, however, been assured on good authority that the tolerance and hospitality which Mr. Durie (mentioned by Elphinstone) experienced across the frontier, would not now be extended to a Christian whatever his colour or country might be, while for a European to fall into the hands of our neighbours, the Khyberees, would be far beyond the contingencies conceived by the most reckless insurance agent in granting a war risk.

Last night I strolled down to the Jumrood end of the cantonments, and from there I could see a fire burning upon one of the mountains of the Khyberees. One of the military bands was playing gaily half a mile away from where I was, and I could scarcely avoid moralizing on the absurdity of the incident. There were we, the representatives of the mighty English, quietly amusing ourselves, while a tribe of semi-barbarous hillmen sat comfortably at their "own fireside" within reach of the penetrating sounds of our brass bands, and safely set us at defiance. Surely it is time this timid, wavering policy were ended and these savages made to learn the advantages of peace and order. If not now, when will the time come."

In describing my journey here, I called attention to the inferences which may be drawn from the geological formation of the country from Pindee to Peshawur, and I then mentioned (if I remember correctly) that it has before now been thought that long before the time when history first treats of the Khyber and the adjacent country, a river flowed through the bleak defile, and passing out over the Peshawur plain, deposited it's burden of gravelly stones and heavy loam sediment which it had swept with it from the upper lands of eastern Afghanistan, but was here no longer able to carry owing to the diminution of the strength of its current when no longer confined to its narrow channel in the mountains. A well sunk at the Jumrood Fort, to a depth of over two hundred feet, affords strong evidence in favour of this theory, for during the operation of sinking the well nothing was met with but strata of loam with pebbles, and large stones, a very coarse gravel in fact, evidently formed under the action of water. Further to the east of the defile, the upper soil of loam and clay becomes thicker as it increases its distance from the defile. Another yet stronger point is that the gravel thus found below the surface of the valley, or rather plain, is of the same geological formation as the Khyber mountains. Towards Pindee hills of from fifty to one hundred and fifty feet in elevation are frequent, and these, as may be seen from the numerous ravines and chasms which intercept and divide them in every direction, consist almost wholly of strata similar to that of the Peshawur plain, with the addition of thick beds of coarse river sand, of a deep slate coloured hue. I have seen no allusion to the finding of any marine fossils, or deposits, either in these strata, or among the strata of any of the neighbouring mountain ranges, so that the only reasonable explanation of the extensive beds of sand, gravel, and loam is that they are the deposits of some rivers or violent mountain torrents now dried up, or diverted beyond identification.

North, south and east, Peshawur is bounded by mountains, but the intervening plain which stretches away on either hand afford a strange diversity of aspect. To the north a slightly undulating plain lies for the most part bare and uninviting in appearance, beyond the trees which surround the villages, which are here fewer and more apart than in the plain to the south of the town, the verdure apparent is confined to a few scattered crops which contribute little of the beautiful or picturesque to the scene. Eastward from the Fort, the cantonments shrouded in green foliage form the foreground of the view, while in the mid distance is a plain on which the few trees visible are all clustered round the few villages that lie between the cantonments and Hurri Singh Ka Boorj, the spot beyond which there is no *hukum* to go. Beyond the Boorj, where the military guard is stationed, the plain is wholly naked, and the Fort of Jumrood, situated on a slightly rising ground alone breaks the monotony of the landscape, until the plain ceases and the hills commence with the mouth of the Khyber Pass opening in the centre of the scene. Turning to the south, the country is covered with verdure, but though in appearance a level plain it is in reality serrated by ridges tending east and west, upon the most northerly of which the town and cantonments are built. The Afreedee mountains form the background with the Jellala Sir rising towards the east. Nothing I think could be more evident if people, or at least officials, would condescend to see it than the rapidly increasing interest which the Mahomedans of India are taking in political affairs which have the slightest bearing on the interests of their religion. Within the past few months, as you are aware, I have had ample opportunities of testing the real attitude of Mahomedan opinion in India, over the greater part of the Bombay and Madras presidencies, as well as in the Central and North-Western Provinces. I availed myself of the opportunities afforded, and with what result I need scarcely say. Nearly a year ago I briefly stated in your columns my opinions on the subject,—opinions founded on an intimate acquaintance with Mahomedans of almost every shade of opinion which is represented in India, men of almost every social grade, and men from all the principal countries in which the religion of the Arabian prophet has taken root, and I then affirmed and I do so now, if possible with a stronger conviction than ever, that the Mahomedans of India as a body are deeply interested in the progress of the events connected with their religion which is now taking place on the Continent of Europe. Anglo-Indian statesmen may urge what theories they like but I assure you as a positive fact, that since the time of Nadir Shah down to the present day, if not from an earlier period, the Sultan of Roum or Turkey, has been either directly or indirectly, and more or less universally considered in India as the head of the Mahomedan world—that is, as *Amir-al-momina*, the Ameer, or chief, of the faithful. The fact is alluded to by a Persian author who visited India with Nadir Shah. This man was a Sheah and therefore opposed on religious as well as political grounds to the Sultan, and it may be taken for granted that he would not have alluded to such an opinion as existing in India unless he were not only convinced of its existence, but knew it as a generally accepted fact. The Mahomedans here as elsewhere throughout India as far as my experience extends hold this opinion, and as a consequence express, as they undoubtedly feel, a warm interest in the result of the crisis which has occurred in Turkish affairs. The steam boat and the railway have of late years brought the Mussulmans of India, Africa, Arabia and Turkey more together than they ever were before. The Arab no longer looks upon the *Mian* with the bitter contempt which Captain Burton has so well pourtrayed in his book; he has learned to acknowledge that there are men of sterling worth, according to his own theory, to be found in India as in Arabia; he knows that there is a vast body of the Mahomedans of India his equals in the rigorous performance of their religious and secular duties, and he no longer believes that a Mahomedan living under the rules of a *naseranee*. Government need not necessarily be a careless or undevout follower of his creed; he sees, moreover, and is ready to admit the benefits derived by everyone who lives under the care of laws which protect the ingoings and outgoings of the poorest as of the richest. And so with the other nations. Turks, Arabs, Persians and Africans may be seen in Bombay any day, fraternising together and exchanging their opinions and ideas. The vernacular newspapers which are now published all over the country reproduce the news and comments of the English papers, and they circulate more extensively than might be thought probably. Here, in Peshawur, for instance, the *Kushful Akbar* of Bombay is received regularly by at least two men whom I have met. I need not repeat the lessons which these facts should—and do for those who are not blindly prejudiced—point out, but there is another and if possible still more important fact to be borne in mind. It is this: week after week, for years past, there is every reason to believe that Mahomedanism is spreading more and more widely over India. Scarcely a week passes in Bombay but one and often more converts from Hindooism are formally received at one or other of the musjids, and these, from my own knowledge of facts, I can say are, in a large majority of instances, voluntary converts. Christian missions and missionaries are spread over the country and the immediate results of their labour is tolerably well known, but there is an indirect result to which public attention has never yet been called. I am prepared to have my statement questioned, or pooh-poohed, but I am nevertheless convinced of the truth of the assertion that for one conversion to Christianity resulting from the efforts of missionaries, there are three to Mahomedanism, resulting from the preaching of Christian missionaries. The missionary when he attacks the Hindoos on such subjects as the impossibility of the *avatars* of the gods, may convince the Hindoo of the falsity of his religion, but at the same time the very arguments which he thus uses are in turn applied by his listeners to the religion he advocates. The missionaries argue that the Hindoo religion is false, and to prove it false descant on the occurrence of things impossible to nature which it requires a belief in, but he forgets that to the ignorant people he is addressing, the very same objections apply to the religion he is advocating. Again, Christianity to the Hindoo means the loss of whatever social position he may have held previous to his conversion. He becomes an outcaste form his own people, with Mahomedans he cannot mix, and his position among his new co-religionists is not an attractive one. Moreover, though his prejudices are condoned with liberality and freedom from censure, thus he can still wear his *shindy*, keep his head covered and revel in all the glory of his dirty *dhotia*; he is yet compelled to adopt habits and customs alike repulsive to him. Not so with the Hindoo convert to Mahomedanism; if anything, his social position is improved by his change of religion, he mixes with Mahomedans as freely as though he were born one, and if he has to abandon his adored *shindy*, and change his *dhotia* for an *easer*, he finds but little change in the daily customs with which he is expected to concur. There is yet another point. The new Christian quickly finds that the pious talk which delighted the missionaries is not generally acceptable to his fellow Christians, his enthusiastic feelings applauded in one direction are sneered at elsewhere. The new Mahomedan finds every one almost of his new brothers precisely alike on this point, and he never suffers the long period of embarrassing ignorance through which the new Christian has to pass before he feel himself at home among the peculiar people to whom he has allied himself. Mahomedanism may then be regarded as rapidly increasing its boundaries in India and it is therefore an element, the importance of which is daily increasing in regard to our position in India, and one which must bear a strong influence in deciding the policy best suited to English interests at the present moment. Through this influence the connexion between our frontier policy in India and our Turkish policy at home becomes closer—far closer—than it could otherwise be. It is in the light of this influence that we must view the questions now at issue. I do not mean to assert, or to suggest that it should be the one controlling feature, that it should be allowed to dictate our policy, or, unquestioned, overwhelm other influences, or other interests. But I do assert that it is of sufficient importance to be weighed carefully and as carefully provided for under any and every contingency which may occur, but more especially in connexion with our frontier policy. Let the Government say what they will, the integrity or the occupation of Afghanistan is essential to the maintenance of peace in India. With Russia on our frontier, intriguing and diplomatizing within our territory as she would, the progress of India, politically, socially, and commercially would be paralyzed. What, then, should we do now to avert such a catastrophe, for such it would be? Either come to terms with the Ameer, or occupy Afghanistan. There is no other line of conduct which will meet the difficulty. With the danger which threatens our frontier in the future provided for, we have our hands free. We can then think of and consider the "Eastern Question" independently, while our frontier is in its present position we cannot do so.

Here, in Peshawur, Shere Ali Khan is thought a good deal of and is as popular as any non-resident can well be. His praises are a constant theme of conversation and nothing but good will is expressed for him. An expedition to Cabul would be most unpopular, as may be conceived when I tell you that one reason of his popularity is his avowed prejudice against admitting Europeans into Afghanistan. Whatever may be the Ameer's own opinions on the subject, he is here credited with the simple and praiseworthy design of endeavouring to preserve the sanctity of Cabul by excluding all infidels from a participation in its delights.

Up to the present day Synd Noor Mahomed Khan, the Ameer's Envoy, remains confined to bed, and the negotiations have not yet been commenced. When the Envoy's health is recovered sufficiently to resume business, there still remains a portion of the past to be discussed; when that has been satisfactorily completed, then, and then only, the business of the actual negotiations will be mooted. To the present day the Ameer and his *vakeel* are alike ignorant of the proposals which the Government have to make.

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[With Supplement.

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Bombay, 24th February 1877.

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F. D. PARKER, Acting Superintendent.

Bombay, 20th March 1877.

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F. D. PARKER, Acting Superintendent.

Bombay, 31st March 1877.

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MADAME CARLOTTA TASCA BEGS TO ANNOUNCE THAT HER BENEFIT CONCERT WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE ABOVE HALL ON WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 4TH.

To commence at 9 o'clock precisely.

PROGRAMME.

PART I.

Song .... "Sweet blushing rose".... *A. Plumpton.*
MR. ALFRED PLUMPTON.
Solo Pianoforte .. "Andante and Rondo Capriccioso.............. *Mendelssohn.*
MADAME CARLOTTA TASCA.
Romanza .... Spirto Gentil .... *Donizetti.*
GENTLEMAN AMATEUR.
Song .... "Ave Maria." .... *Gounod.*
(With Violin and Harmonium obligato.)
MISS ELCIA MAY.
Duet .... "The moon hath raised her lamp"........... *Sir J. Benedict.*
MR. H. VERNON AND MR. A. PLUMPTON.
Song .... "There's no home like my own."........... *Malibran.*
MRS H. VERNON.
Song .... "The wreck of the Hesperus. *J. L. Hatton.*
GENTLEMAN AMATEUR.
Solo Pianoforte.... "Scherzo in B flat minor.. *Chopin.*
MADAME CARLOTTA TASCA.

An interval of ten minutes.

PART II.

Duet .... "The Lilly and the Rose" .. *S. Glover.*
MR AND MRS. H. VERNON.
Solo Pianoforte. a { "Reverie" .... *C. Tasca.*
b { "Tarantelle" .... *C. Tasca.*
MADAME CARLOTTA TASCA.
Song .A........ "Sweet is True Love" ..... *A. Plumpton.*
MISS ELCIA MAY
(Accompanied by the Composer.)
Song .... "The death of Nelson" ..... *Braham.*
Mr. H. VERNON.
Solo Pianoforte .. "Pasquinade"............ *Gottschalk.*
MADAME CARLOTTA TASCA.
Song .... "Ye happy Birds" .... *Gumbert.*
MISS ELCIA MAY.
Duet .... "Sul campo della Gloria" .. *Donizetti.*
GENTLEMAN AMATEURS.
Solo Pianoforte .. "Hibernian Echoes" .... *Ronville.*
MADAME CARLOTTA TASCA.

Reserved .... Rs. 4 | Unreserved .... Rs. 2
Area.................. Rs. 1

Carriages may be ordered at eleven.

Plan may be seen and tickets obtained at Messrs. SOUNDY and Co.

Notice.—Special Tram Cars will run from Boree Bunder to the Town Hall, to carry passengers to the Concert from the Byculla cars. Special cars will run after the Performance to Byculla and Colaba.

NOTICE.—CONSIGNEES per Steamer ZANTE are hereby informed of the ARRIVAL of the vessel, and requested to TAKE DELIVERY AT ONCE of their respective GOODS. No claim of any kind will be paid after the departure of the Steamer unless it be previously passed by the Captain.

W. NICOL & Co., Agents.

Bombay, 31st March 1877.

NOTICE.—ANCHOR LINE, INDIAN SERVICE.—CONSIGNEES of CARGO, per S. S. EUROPA, are hereby informed of the Steamer's ARRIVAL from GLASGOW and LIVERPOOL, and are requested to present their BILLS of LADING, and to TAKE DELIVERY of their respective GOODS without delay.

W. & A. GRAHAM & Co., Agents.

TO BE LET, a RESIDENCE in Hornby Row. Rent Rs. 75. Apply to

E. W. FLOWER,
House Agent.

4, Hummum Street.

TO BE LET, with immediate possession, the spacious upper-storey of a BUNGALOW, open to the Western Sea Breeze, in Middle Colaba, opposite the Branch Post Office. Rent Rs. 100, no Taxes. Apply to Mr. WELLS, Paper Currency Office.

NOTTING HILL TO LET Furnished, about July, for two years. A Comfortable House with small Garden and close to Railway Station, containing three Reception four Bed and Dressing Rooms, Nursery, and Bath Room with Hot Water Service. Inclusive terms four Guineas a week. Apply "J. E. E." care Messrs. FARRAR & FARRAR, Wardrobe Place, Doctors' Commons London.

KEATING'S INSECT POWDER.—BUGS, FLEAS, MOTHS, BEETLES, and all other Insects are Destroyed by KEATING'S INSECT DESTROYING POWDER, which is quite harmless to Domestic Animals. Sold in tins 's. and Bottles, by Thomas Keating, St. Paul's Churchyard, London, and all Chemists. In exterminating Beetles the success of this powder is extraordinary and no one need be troubled by those pests It is perfectly clean in application.

GUZERAT RACES, 1877.

THESE RACES will probably be run on 21st, 23rd and 25th August at Ahmedabad. This year they will be open to Members of the Services in Government employ, or of any recognized Club, or European Gentlemen residents or landed proprietors in Guzerat, Kattywar or Deesa. A Prospectus will shortly be published.

JOHN ANGUS,
Officiating Honorary Secretary, Guzerat Races.

HORSES! HORSES!! HORSES!!!

A BYCULLA COMMISSION STABLE, instructed by JAMES LALOR, Esq., to sell, without reserve, remaining batch of 17 AUSTRALIAN HORSES broken to Saddle and Harness, some well-matched pairs and a good team of large Bays, by PUBLIC AUCTION on SATURDAY, the 7th instant, at 3 P. M.

Catalogues on Application.

GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.
NOTICE.

THE PUBLIC are hereby informed that on and after TUESDAY next, the 3rd April 1877, until further notice, PASSENGERS and LUGGAGE will be BOOKED between Karli, a new station between Lonauli and Kharkala, and all other Stations of this Railway.

The Up and the Down Poona Passenger and Mixed Trains will stop at this Station to take up and set down Passengers. The South East Line Mail Train will however not stop at Karli

Information as to Fares, &c. can be obtained at the Stations or of the Undersigned.

HENRY CONDER,
General Traffic Manager.

Bombay, 31st March 1877.

UNITED EVANGELISTIC COMMITTEE.—United services will (D. V.) be held during the FIRST WEEK of April of which due notice will be given.

The following are the Committee and Sub-Committees:—

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

Ministers and Missionaries Ex-Officio.

General Gell.	Mr. Conder.
Captain Oldham.	Dr. Partridge.
Mr. Manson.	Dr. Macdonald.
Mr. N. Spencer.	Mr. Crisp.
Mr. Morris.	Mr. P. Balaji.
Mr. Paterson.	Mr. Dillon.
Mr. Poynter.	Mr. S. Smith.
Mr. Simpson.	Mr. W. E. Gordon.

Chairman—General Gell.
Secretaries, { Rev. Buchanan Blake.
{ Mr. Geo Manson.
Treasurer—Mr. W. E. Gordon.

THE NEW COLABA COMPANY, LIMITED.—Notice is hereby given, that the ADJOURNED EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the SHAREHOLDERS of the New Colaba Company, Limited, will be held on SATURDAY, the 7th day of April 1877, at 3 o'clock P.M., at the Registered Office of the Company, Elphinstone Circle, Bombay, for the following purpose:—

To declare the result of the Poll directed to be taken at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Shareholders on the 21st ultimo.

Notice is also given that immediately upon the conclusion of the business of the Adjourned Meeting an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Shareholders of the New Colaba Company, Limited, will be held at the Registered Office of the Company abovementioned when the following Special Resolution will be proposed.

That Clause 115 of the Articles of Association be amended by deleting the words, "The persons for the time being forming the Firm of Messrs. Remington and Co shall be the Secretaries and Treasurers," and writing immediately after the words Treasurers the following words—

"But they shall be liable to be removed from Office by the votes of a majority of the Shareholders."

By Order of the Directors,
REMINGTON & Co.,
Secretaries and Treasurers.

Bombay, 29th March 1877.

BASS'S PALE ALE, BOTTLED BY MESSRS. M. B. FOSTER AND SONS.

TREACHER & Co. (Limited) are the exclusive AGENTS, in this Presidency, for the above Firm.

Messrs. FOSTER & SONS are the largest Bottlers of the national beverage in the World, and the Shipments of the Brand received from that Firm during the past five years have, by their unequalled qualities, gained for it the leading position in this and the other Presidencies of India.

Per Doz. Quarts, Cash........................Rs. 6 0
Do. Pints, do. .... „ 4 0

TREACHER & COMPANY, LIMITED,
BOMBAY, BYCULLA AND POONA.

PURE AND SPARKLING

AERATED WATERS.

TREACHER & Co., LIMITED, direct attention to their list of AERATED WATERS which are prepared with the greatest regard to cleanliness and purity. By the aid of Steam power these Waters are charged with Gas at the greatest possible pressure, being thus rendered sparkling and agreeable in the highest degree.

Their LEMONADE and other FLAVOURED WATERS are celebrated for their freshness and their delicious taste.

Their TONIC WATER, the demand for which is constantly increasing, is unequalled for its delicacy of flavour and tonic properties, each bottle containing a definite quantity of Quinine presented in an agreeable form

		Cash			Cash
SODA WATER	per doz.	0 12	AERATED WATER	per doz.	0 12
TONIC WATER (THE ORIGINAL)	„	1 0	POTASH WATER	„	0 12
SELTZER WATER, introduced by T. & Co.	„	1 0	LITHIA WATER	„	1 8
LEMONADE AND GINGERADE	„	1 0	VICHY WATER	„	1 4

Bottles are charged Rs. 2 per dozen, the same amount being allowed for them when delivered free at our Manufactory.

Mineral, Acid, and Medicated Waters prepared to order.

TREACHER & CO., LIMITED,
Manufacturing Chemists,
BOMBAY, BYCULLA, & POONA.

REQUISITES FOR TRAVELLERS BY LAND OR SEA.

OVERLAND TRUNKS.
Rs. 22-8 each.
PORTMANTEAUX.
Of convenient shapes.
COURIER AND HAND BAGS.
Tanned Canvas and Leather.
RUGS.
Rug and Bed Straps.
AIR PILLOWS AND CUSHIONS.
Of superior manufacture, from Rs. 5 to 15.
DECK AND CAMP CHAIRS.
Folding—light and strong, from Rs. 7 to 15.
BATHS.
Best Tin, strong, with and without covers, from Rs. 10 to 50.
Indian Rubber ditto, quite flat, and when inflated serve as a comfortable Bath, 33 inches in diameter and 8 inches deep, Rs. 25.
LAMPS AND LANTERNS,
of the most useful patterns made specially for India.
FIELD AND MARINE GLASSES.
Achromatic in sling Cases, from Rs. 25 to 150.

TIFFIN BASKETS,
Suitable for Indian use, empty or conveniently fitted from Rs. 11 to Rs. 50 each.
POCKET CANTEENS,
from Rs. 30 to 50.
Dram Flasks. Various Patterns and sizes, Rs. 1-8 to 15.
Drinking Cups. Horn, Glass or Metal, As. 12 to Rs. 3-8.
Corkscrews, Tin Openers, Knives and Forks,
POCKET AND TRAVELLING FILTERS,
from Rs. 3 to 30.
PRESERVED PROVISIONS,
Soups, Fish, Meats, Pies, Sausages, Biscuits, &c., &c.
CLARETS, BRANDIES, HOCKS, CHAMPAGNES,
Beers, Stouts, &c.
SODA AND OTHER AERATED WATERS.
Pure and Sparkling.
INFANTS' PREPARED FOODS,
Fresh importations.
CHOCOLATE, COCOA, TEA, COFFEE AND MILK,
in a variety of forms,
CIGARS AND CHEROOTS,
Manillas, Trichinopoly and Coconada, of first qualities, specially selected.
BEST BRIAR PIPES,
from Rs. 1 to 5
MEERSCHAUM PIPES,
Of handsome shapes.

MEDICINE CHESTS,
in solid Leather, Oak, or Mahogany fitted with Medicines according to special requirements, from Rs. 25 to 100.
EAU DE COLOGNE AND VINEGAR.
Marine and Toilet Soaps, Soap Cases.
SPONGES,
and Sponge Bags.
DRESSING BAGS AND CASES,
from Rs. 13 to 300.
STATIONERY.
Note Paper and Envelopes, specially suited for Overland or Inland Correspondence.
WRITING AND TOURIST CASES
in a variety of portable and useful shapes.
PURSES AND POCKET BOOKS.
of the most convenient and secure forms.
PLAYING CARDS,
and Portable Games.

TREACHER & COMPANY, LD.,
BOMBAY, BYCULLA, AND POONA.

FIRTH'S INDIAN PHOTOGRAPHS.
SEASON 1875-76

MESSRS. THACKER, VINING & Co. desire to draw especial attention to the above Series of Photographs, which has now been completed by the addition of some 200 Views taken by an Artist, who passed the Season of 1874-75 in India for that special purpose.

The additions made include Views of the New Buildings in Bombay, a Series of Matheran Scenery, Views at Bassein, Poona, Nassick, and at all places of interest in this Presidency, as well as a large number of Views in Calcutta, Madras, &c., &c.

The entire Series now consists of over 500 Photographs, size 8 inches by 6¼, the subjects being most artistically chosen and photographed, and exquisitely printed; they are certainly equal, if not superior, to any that have yet been produced, whilst they are sold at the remarkably cheap rate of Rs. 15 per Dozen.

Sample Albums are always on view.

THACKER, VINING & COMPANY.

GREAT REDUCTION IN PRICES.

THE SINGER MANUFACTURING CO.'S WORLD RENOWNED (GENUINE) LOCK-STITCH SEWING MACHINES and all accessories can be had from their Bombay Office.

Machines given to "approved" buyers on the INSTALMENT SYSTEM.

6, ELPHINSTONE CIRCLE, BOMBAY.

☞ *Prospectus and lessons free on application.*

THE INDIAN PIANETTE, WITH SOLID ENTIRE IRON FRAME.

SOUNDY & Co.'s many years' experience in India has given them exceptional opportunities of seeing Pianofortes from all parts of the country that will not withstand the effects of this trying climate. They have therefore devoted considerable time and expense to the matter of constructing a thoroughly good and inexpensive Pianoforte that will be really serviceable, and have happily succeeded, after much trouble, in attaining this.

It is difficult to convey in an advertisement even an approximate idea of the qualities of the "INDIAN PIANETTE." SOUNDY & Co. would, therefore, invite intending purchasers of a Piano to see and judge for themselves. The instrument is made of SOLID CANADIAN WALNUT with black mouldings in relief; it has an entire iron frame, which render the strings quite independent of any wood bracings, which are not used in this Piano. THE PIN PLANK is firmly encased in the iron frame and securely bolted, so that it cannot possibly be affected by extremes of climate. THE SOUNDING BOARD is made of the very best seasoned wood and the bars are screwed upon quite a new principle. THE ACTION is of the very best construction and is DOUBLE CHECK, which gives a most delicate touch with great precision. The instrument has a TRICHORD TREBLE, which gives VOLUME and BRILLIANCY equal to a grand Piano, and the tone throughout is of a beautiful singing quality which renders it peculiarly adapted for brilliant pieces as well as an accompaniment to the voice. It has a FULL GRAND COMPASS OF 7 OCTAVES, so that the most modern and difficult works can be performed on the instrument.

The variations of climate, causing equal contraction and expansion of iron frame and strings together, the INDIAN PIANETTE, from its peculiar construction, will stand longer in tune than Pianos made upon any other system.

The greatest care has been taken to secure the instrument against the effects of insects and vermin, and although the case is of solid wood and substantial make, it is an exceedingly handsome Piano, whilst the compactness of the instrument renders it peculiarly adapted for transport to the mofussil.

The Price Rs. 450, places the INDIAN PIANETTE within the reach of all.

SOUNDY & CO., BOMBAY,
SOLE IMPORTERS.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

NEW IRISH TABLE LINENS.

$\frac{10}{4}$ BY $\frac{10}{4}$ DAMASK CLOTHS, 2½ yards square.

No. 510½ GEOMETRICAL CENTRE, Border to match.......... Rs. 9.
No. 637½ CENTRE LEAVES and FLOWERS, Border to match.......... Rs. 9.
No. 333½ RUNNING PATTERN of FLOWERS, Border to match.......... Rs. 9.
No. 510½ STAR PATTERN, Border to match.......... Rs. 9.
No. 91½ SMALL SPOT, Border of Flowers and Leaves.......... Rs. 10-8.
No. 219½ LEAF CENTRE, Scroll Border.......... Rs. 10-8.
No. 740½ SCROLL of FLOWERS, Border to match.......... Rs. 10-8.
No. 71½ SMALL BOUQUETS of FLOWERS, Grape Vine Border.......... Rs. 12-8.
No. 195½ CENTRE WILD ROSES, Border Poppies and Roses.......... Rs. 12-8.
No. 335½ IVY LEAF CENTRE, Border of Corn Flowers.......... Rs. 12-8.
No. 592½ IVY and FERN CENTRE, Border to match.......... Rs. 14-8.
No. 194½ CENTRE of CARNATIONS, pretty Border of Flowers.......... Rs. 14-8.

$\frac{10}{4}$ BY $\frac{12}{4}$ DAMASK CLOTHS, 3 yards by 2½ yards.

No. 742½ ROSE SCROLL CENTRE, Border to match.......... Rs. 10-8.
No. 510½ STAR PATTERN, Border to match.......... Rs. 10-8.
No. 639½ HANDSOME MALTESE CROSS PATTERN, Border to match.......... Rs. 10-8.
No. 737½ SCROLL of ROSES and FERNS, Fern Border.......... Rs. 12-8.
No. 217½ IVY LEAF CENTRE, Border Flowers.......... Rs. 12-8.
No. 71½ CENTRE SCROLL of FUSCHIAS and LEAVES, Border to match.......... Rs. 12-8.
No. 193½ CENTRE of SMALL FLOWERS, Scroll Border.......... Rs. 14-8.
No. 194½ VINE LEAF CENTRE, Border Leaves and Flowers.......... Rs. 14-8.
No. 64½ RUNNING PATTERN of WILD ROSES and LEAVES, Border of Tulips. Rs 14-8.

$\frac{10}{4}$ BY $\frac{14}{4}$ DAMASK CLOTHS, 3½ yards by 2½ yards.

No. 639½ MALTESE CROSS, Border to match.......... Rs. 13-8.
No. 737½ SCROLL of ROSES and FERNS, Fern Border.......... Rs 13-8.
No. 385 IVY LEAF CENTRE, Handsome Border to match.......... Rs. 14-8.
No. 380½ SMALL SPOT, Border of Flowers.......... Rs. 16-8.
No. 195½ RUNNING IVY, Border to match.......... Rs. 17-8.

$\frac{10}{4}$ BY $\frac{18}{4}$ DAMASK CLOTHS, 4½ yards by 2½ yards.

No. 32½ CENTRE of SMALL BOUQUETS, Border of Flowers.......... Rs. 16-8.
No. 737½ RUNNING FERN PATTERN, Border of Fern Leaves.......... Rs. 16-8.
No. 658½ CENTRE BOUQUET of FLOWERS, Border of Flowers and Leaves.......... Rs. 17-8.
No. 737½ SCROLL OF ROSES AND FERNS, Fern Border.......... Rs. 17-8.
No. 71½ CENTRE SMALL BOUQUET OF Flowers, Grape Vine Border.......... Rs. 21
No. 243 CENTRE OF VARIOUS FERN LEAVES, Border to match.......... Rs. 20.
No. 397½ HANDSOME LACE PATTERN, Border to match.......... Rs. 22-8.
No. 566½ CENTRE OF WHEATEARS, Border small medallions and Fancy Flowers. Rs. 22-8.
No. 194½ CENTRE BAND OF ROSEBUDS, Vine Leaves and Stars, Border of Full-blown Roses.......... Rs. 25-8.
No. 819½ VINE AND CREEPER CENTRE, Border of Lillies, Roses and other Flowers. Rs. 25-8

$\frac{10}{4}$ BY $\frac{20}{4}$ DAMASK CLOTHS, 5 yards by 2½.

No. 93½ HANDSOME VINE AND GRAPE Centre, Border to match.......... Rs. 22-8.
No. 219½ CENTRE OF SMALL LEAVES, Handsome Border of Leaves and Flowers Rs. 22-8.
No. 566/8 FLOWER AND CRESCENT CENTRE, Handsome Border of Flowers.. Rs. 25-8
No. 335 VINE LEAF CENTRE, Border of Fruit and Flowers.......... Rs. 25-8.
No. 195½ CENTRE OF RUNNING IVY, Border to match.......... Rs. 25-8.
No. 71½ SMALL BOUQUET OF FLOWERS, Vine and Grape Border.......... Rs. 27-8.
No. 64½ RUNNING PATTERN OF DOG Roses and Leaves, Border of Tulips.......... Rs. 27-8
No. 819½ VINE and CREEPER CENTRE, Handsome Border of Lillies and other Flowers.......... Rs. 35.
No. 592½ FERN and IVY LEAF CENTRE, Handsome Border to match.......... Rs. 35.

$\frac{10}{4}$ BY $\frac{28}{4}$ DAMASK CLOTHS, 7 yards by 2½.

No. 819½ VINE and CREEPER CENTRE, Handsome Border of Lillies and other Flowers.......... Rs. 40.
No. 592½ FERN and IVY LEAF CENTRE, Handsome Border to match.......... Rs. 40.

$\frac{12}{4}$ BY $\frac{12}{4}$ DAMASK CLOTHS, 3 yards square.

No. 215½ FLEUR DE LIS CENTRE, Handsome Border of Flowers.......... Rs. 17-8.
No. 357 CENTRE of DAISIES, Border of Wild Flowers.......... Rs. 25

$\frac{10}{4}$ BY $\frac{32}{4}$ DAMASK CLOTHS, 8 yards by 2½.

No. 36½ HANDSOME VINE CENTRE, Border of Fruit and Flowers.......... Rs. 45.
No. 194½ HANDSOME CENTRE, Bands of Rosebuds, Vine Leaves and Stars, Border of Full blown Roses.......... Rs. 50.

$\frac{10}{4}$ BY $\frac{36}{4}$ DAMASK CLOTHS, 9 yards by 2½.

No. 36½ HANDSOME VINE CENTRE, Border of Fruit and Flowers.......... Rs. 50.
No. 194½ HANDSOME CENTRE, Bands of Rosebuds, Vine Leaves and Stars, Border of Full-blown Roses.......... Rs. 55.

$\frac{10}{4}$ BY $\frac{40}{4}$ DAMASK CLOTHS, 10 yards long by 2½.

No. 36½ HANDSOME VINE CENTRE, Border of Fruit and Flowers.......... Rs. 65.
No. 194½ HANDSOME CENTRE, Bands of Rosebuds, Vine Leaves, and Stars Border Full-blown Roses.......... Rs. 65.

DAMASK NAPKINS ¾ yard square to match the above patterns from Rs. 7-8 to Rs. 14 per dozen.

CLOTHS FOR COMMUNION TABLE.

No. 4595, 3 YARDS LONG by 2 yards wide, with Ecclesiastic Device.......... Rs. 35 and Rs. 40. DAMASK NAPKINS for Communion Service to match; Damask Slip to match.

MASONIC CLOTHS.

No. 601 6 YARDS LONG by 2½ YARDS WIDE, Masonic Device.......... Rs. 55. DAMASK NAPKINS to match, ¾ yard square.......... Rs. 27-8 per dozen.

10 *PER CENT DISCOUNT FOR CASH.*

WATSON & CO.,
22 & 23, Rampart Row,
8 & 9, CHURCH GATE STREET,
BOMBAY.

NOTICES.

BY APPOINTMENT TO
H. R. H. THE PRINCE OF WALES.

DESCHAMPS AND CO.
FURNITURE, CARRIAGE, HARNESS,
AND
GENERAL MANUFACTURERS,
MADRAS, BOMBAY AND CALCUTTA.

CARRIAGE.

LANDAUS, 5 Glasses, quite a novelty, the last improvements.
Landau Omnibus, Landau-Clarence.
Landau, 3 venetians, of Simple Mechanism.
Landaulet-Brougham.
CEESPRING BERLINES, Clarences, Barouches and Coups with or without coach-box and Withworth's Steel Perch.
WAGGONETTES, Waggonette rail body of moveable to Waggonette-Stanhope, Waggonette Mail Phaeton.
PHAETON, Cab, Ladies, Park, Basket, Victoria and Denmark.
MAIL-PHAETONS, with Ladies Sliding Step, with hind Seat revolving, also American Pattern.
BAROUCHES, the last and most elegant Patterns of *Paris, London* and *Vienna.*
BROUGHAMS and Coupes Palankeen Coach with low venetian, Berline, Clarence, newest design for 1 or 2 horses.
BREAKS all Sizes, Table Breaks, Break-Omnibus Chariot, Breaks, Hunting Breaks.
BUGGIES, Gigs, Tiburys, Mylords, Ducs, do. with Rumble Spiders.
DOG CARTS, all sizes and shapes, 2 and 4 wheeled, with or without moveable top and break.

TO COTTON SPINNERS & MANUFACTURERS.—Just landed, a superior Parcel of ROLLER and CLEARER CLOTH, and SIZERS FLANNEL.

GREAVES, COTTON & Co.

THE WIFE of a retired Officer residing at Sydenham, close to the Crystal Palace, is desirous of TAKING CHARGE of CHILDREN whose parents are in India, to be educated with her own. A Resident Governess kept. Highest references given and required. Address Mrs. FOSTER, The Jasmines, Silverdale, Sydenham.

BOMBAY CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.—An EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Bombay Co-Operative Society will be held at the Society's Rooms, on MONDAY, the 2nd April at 5 P.M., for the purpose of confirming the Resolutions passed at the Ordinary and Extraordinary Meetings held on the 27th February.

By Order of the Directors,
TORRAR & BUCHANAN.
Secretaries and Agents.

ALL PERSONS having CLAIMS against or being INDEBTED to the ESTATE of the late ANDREAS PETERSON, commonly known by the name of Peter Anderson, Guard G. I. P. R., are requested to SEND in their CLAIMS or PAY their DEBTS to the Undersigned within one month from this date, after which the Estate will be handed over to the Administrator General, Bombay.

A. F. DOBBS.
Judicial Superintendent of Railways, H. H. Nizam's Dominions
Shahabad, 29th March 1877.

GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.
NOTICE.

THE PUBLIC are hereby informed that on and after SUNDAY next the first of April 1877, until further notice, PASSENGERS and LUGGAGE will be BOOKED between the following new Stations and all other Stations of this Railway, viz.:—Yeoal between Uruli and Khedgaon Borebail between Dhond and Diksal, Kartruz between Diksal and Pumulwari.

The Up and the Down Passenger and Mixed Trains will stop at these Stations to take up and set down passengers.

Information as to Fares, etc., can be obtained at the Stations, or of the Undersigned.

HENRY CONDER,
General Traffic Manager.

Bombay, 29th March 1877.

NOTICE is hereby given, that LINCOLN STEPHEN HOUGH, late a Major General of Her Majesty's Bombay Staff Corps, and late of No. 7, Gloucester Crescent, Hyde Park, in the County of Middlesex, in England, deceased died on the 23rd day of November 1876, at No. 7, Gloucester Crescent aforesaid, and LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION of his PROPERTY and CREDITS in India were, on the 8th day of March 1877, granted by the High Court of Judicature at Bombay to FREDERICK YORKE SMITH, one of the Solicitors of the said Court, for the use and benefit of FRANCES MARY HOUGH, the Widow and Executrix of the abovenamed LINCOLN STEPHEN HOUGH, deceased. All persons having any claim against or indebted or liable to the Estate of the said LINCOLN STEPHEN HOUGH, are requested to send in particulars of their claims or debts in writing within one month from the date hereof to us at our Office, at 12, Rampart Row, within the Fort of Bombay, at the expiration of which period the said FREDERICK YORKE SMITH will REMIT the ASSETS of the Estate of the said LINCOLN STEPHEN HOUGH, deceased, to the said FRANCES MARY HOUGH, the Executrix in England, and no claims sent in subsequently will be recognized.—Dated this 10th day March 1877.

FLETCHER & SMITH,
Attornies to the Administrator in India.

PURSUANT to a DECREE of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal in its Ordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction made in Suit No. 232 of 1876, (wherein ALBERT BIRMINGHAM MILLER, Official Assignee of the Court for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors at Calcutta and Assignee of the Estate and Effects of WILLIAM DE MONTE SINAES, an Insolvent, is Plaintiff, and FREDERICK JOHN FERGUSSON, the Official Trustee of Bengal, is Defendant) and dated the 30th day of November 1876, the CREDITORS of the late Firm of Messrs JOSEPH BARRETTO and SONS of the Town of Calcutta, Merchants and Agents, who have executed a certain Trust Deed for the benefit of Creditors, dated the 10th day of March 1827, and expressed to be made between LUIS JOSEPH BARRETTO and EDWARD BRIGHTMAN, surviving Members of the said Firm of Messrs JOSEPH BARRETTO and SONS of the 1st part JOHN PALMER WILLIAM MSLIE GEORGE BALLARD, WILLIAM MELVILLE, and ROBERT BROWNE of the 2nd part and the several persons, Creditors of the said LUIS JOSEPH BARRETTO and EDWARD BRIGHTMAN who by themselves or their respective Attorneys should execute the said Indenture of the 3rd part and all other persons claiming to be interested in the said Trust Deed are on or before SATURDAY, the 28th day of July 1877 to send to the Office of the Registrar of this Court in its Original Side their Names, Addresses and Descriptions, the full particulars of their claims, a statement of their accounts and the nature of the securities (if any) held by them, or in default thereof they will be peremptorily excluded from the benefit of the said decree.

Every Creditor holding any security may produce or transmit the same to the Registrar with particulars of his claim or shall produce the same before the Judge for the time being exercising Original Jurisdiction in the Court House on SATURDAY, the 11th day of August 1877, at 11 of the clock in the Forenoon, being the time appointed for adjudicating on the claims.

R. BELCHAMBERS, Registrar.

DIGNAM & ROBINSON,
Plaintiff's Attorneys.

The 16th March 1877.

PROSPECTUS OF THE CENTRAL ASIAN TRADING COMPANY, LIMITED.
REGISTERED UNDER ACT X. OF 1866.
HEAD OFFICE: LAHORE.
CAPITAL—Rs. 5,00,000.

With power to increase, to be raised in 500 Shares of Rs. 1,000 each, payable as follows:—

Rs. 250 on application.
Rs. 250 on allotment.

(Further Calls will be made at such times as the Directors may decide.)

Six per cent. per annum will be charged on all over-due Calls.

CHAIRMAN.
G. H. Coates, Esq., Merchant, Ferozepore.
DIRECTORS.
Colonel A. Cory, Lahore.
G. E. Coates, Esq., Ferozepore.
D. P Masson, Esq., Manager Punjab Bank Limited, Lahore.
Rai Mela Ram.
Lalla Chota Lall.
MANAGER.
Thomas Russell, Esq.
ASSISTANT MANAGER.
Andrew Dalgliesh, Esq.
STANDING COUNSEL.
C. H. Spitta, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, Lahore.
SECRETARY AND ACCOUNTANT.
W. D. Henry, Esq.
BANKERS.
The Punjab Bank Limited.—Rawul Pindi, Lahore, Mooltan and Murree.

OUTLINE OF PROSPECTUS.

I.—The Company is formed with the object of taking over and developing the business of a private partnership, which, under the name of the Central Asian Trading Company, has during the last three years been engaged in trade with Eastern Turkistan, Ladak and Kashmir.

II.—The Good-Will, Trade Mark, Bond of Agreement with the Kashmir authorities, and other privileges of the old Company, will be taken over by the new Company at a valuation of 10 per cent premium upon the paid up capital of the venture—to Rs. 17,000, in fully paid up Shares of the new Company, and by so doing the new Company will in no way be concerned with the Assets or Liabilities of the old Company.

III.—The results of the old Company's trading transactions with Yarkund afford good grounds for believing a highly profitable trade can be carried on with the Central Asian, Punjab, Kashmir, and Ladak markets.

IV.—Several members of the old Company join the new Company, and they further permit their Manager, and Assistant Manager, in the old Company to take service with the new Company.

V.—Only two-thirds of the entire Company's stated capital will be issued at present in shares, and the Board reserve the right to issue further shares until such time as the development of the Company's working make it advisable to do so.

VI.—The business of the Company will also include trading with any other city in India, and permit of its produce being sent into the American, Chinese, Australian, Continental, and English markets, or any other market where a profitable return is obtainable.

VII. The Head Office of the Company will be at Lahore (with Warehouses at Srinagar and Leh), where further information regarding the trade and prospects of the Company may be obtained on application to the Manager, Mr. T Russell.

VIII.—Applications for shares will be received by the Managers of the Punjab Bank, Limited, at their various offices, as well as by the Manager of the Company at his office in Lahore up to the 30th of April.

THOMAS RUSSELL, Manager,
Central Asian Trading Company, Limited.

Lahore, the February 1877.

To
The MANAGER.

Dear Sir,

I beg to enclose the sum of Rs. as the application deposit for Shares in the Central Asian Trading Company, "Limited," and bind myself to accept the number of Shares now applied for, or any less number that may be allotted to me, in accordance with the Articles of Association of the Company.

Yours faithfully,

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COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE

SATURDAY EVENING, 31st March 1877.

The markets having been closed for the Easter holidays from the 29th instant to this morning, we have in reality only three days actual business to report upon. During that time the political advices from Europe were most unsettled, and our various markets were depressed thereby, Cotton in Liverpool having undergone a decline of ⅛d. per lb. The latest telegrams, however, hold out some prospect of an amicable arrangement with respect to Turkish affairs being arrived at between the English and Russian Governments, and there is every appearance of trade assuming a more active character in consequence. Notwithstanding the holidays, there has been considerable buying of Cotton for export within the past two or three days, and although Piece Goods have been but little dealt in from first hands the off-take from the Bazaar has been somewhat more liberal. Money is in greater demand, but so far the rate of discount has not altered. Government Paper is steady, and shares generally are very firm. Sterling Exchange after some fluctuations closed on Thursday at the quotations we gave for last Mail. Steamer freights have undergone a rapid decline owing to the difficulty in obtaining cargo to complete the loading of two or three vessels during the holidays. £1-16-3 per ton has been done for filling up orders. By Cape there is a fair enquiry at £2-2-6 per ton.

The usual weekly biddings for Council drafts in India took place in London on the 28th instant, when £100,000 were allotted to Calcutta at an average of 1s. 8·69d., and £75,000 to Bombay at an average of 1s. 8·68d., tenders at 1s. 8⅝d. on Calcutta receiving 75 per cent. and on Bombay at 1s. 8 11/16d., 42 per cent. of the amounts applied for. Telegraphic transfers, to the extent of 75 per cent. of the amount applied for, were allotted to Bombay only at a minimum rate of 1s. 8 11/16d. per rupee. These figures were slightly under the level generally looked for on this side, and we learn since that the amount advertised for next Wednesday's biddings being £265,000, in accordance with the intimation given in the Indian Budget, Bar Silver which had previously advanced to 54⅜d. per oz. has become unquotable. This seems to indicate a belief that the increased amount of Council drawings in prospect will prove too much for the market, and looking to the large supplies of funds in the hands of the Exchange Banks, in comparison with the export trade we shall have to finance, for the belief is well grounded. The main point as regards the ultimate course of the market will be, the nature of Government action with respect to the New Loans. If the Budget programme be adhered to, we may look for a considerable fall in Exchange and Silver as our export season draws to a close, but by some people it is thought not at all unlikely that the low rate of Exchange may tempt the Secretary of State to bring out the whole 6½ millions as a Sterling Loan. Even in that case, though there would be no necessity for suspending Council drawings before the monsoon, and the tendency, therefore, would be more to avoid extreme depression then, than to advance rates now. Whichever way we look at the position, therefore, the balance of probabilities inclines to a further fall, and we should call 52d. per oz. for Silver and 1s. 8d. for demand Bank Bills, by no means an unduly low level to expect between now and June.

Money.—The last published statement of the Bank of Bombay for the week ending on the 24th instant showed a reduction in the Cash Balance of 16 lacs, the result of a decrease in Deposits of 7 lacs and an increase in Loans and Discounts of 13 lacs, less an addition to the Government Treasury Balances of 4 lacs. This return gives decided indications of an increased trade demand for money, and by some people an early advance in the Bank's rates of interest and discount is confidently expected. When the position of the Bank, however, comes to be closely looked into, it will at once be seen that there is little reason to look for any important rise on the current charges for accommodation. The proportion of Cash to Liabilities stands at the unusual figure of 65 per cent., and this with the Government Balance at a point which leaves little room for heavy withdrawals. Trade requirements here will of course be at their heaviest during the next few weeks, but even that means something considerably below the average of past seasons, and in addition to the strength of the Bank itself—which is much greater for instance than at the same time last year—we have the fact that the Mint holds Silver to the extent of 2¼ millions, and is turning out new coin at the rate of about 20 lacs per week, while there is about one million sterling now on the way out from Southampton alone. Taken as a whole, the position may be taken as very favourable for the time of year and by no means indicative of dear money.

Exchange.—After considerable fluctuation in the beginning of the week sterling rates closed on Thursday, when business was suspended for the holidays, at the same figures as quoted by us for last steamer. Last Mail-day, after our report was in print, owing to a rise in the price of Silver, and a more active demand for Money here, the market showed great firmness, and an advance of ⅛d. per rupee was established, making demand Bank Bills. 1s. 8 11/16d. On Tuesday morning the firmness continued, and a further rise of 1/16d. took place, but at this point sellers of bills withdrew from the market and rates at the same time coming weak from Calcutta, a reaction set in during the day and a fall of ⅛d. resulted. On Wednesday there was the usual indisposition shown to operating, pending news of the result of the Council biddings, and under this feeling a partial recovery of 1/16d. took place, only to be lost again, however, on Thursday when the figures obtained became known. We accordingly quote:—Bank Bill on demand, 1s. 8 9/16d., 6 months' sight 1s. 8⅞d; Credits 3 months' sight 1s. 8⅞d., 6 months' 1s. 9 1/16d; Documents' 3 months' sight 1s. 8 15/16d., 6 months' sight 1s. 9⅛d. per rupee.

The amount of Private Paper placed during the three days the Banks were open was by no means heavy, but with the improved demand, which has since sprung up for Cotton we may look for a considerable addition to the amount offering during the current week. The strength of the market, however, has been chiefly in the small demand existing for Bank Bills, the result of the system now adopted of securing exchange in anticipation; but as the import markets promise more activity, we may see an increased demand for remittance sufficient to counteract the effect of heavier drawings against exports.

On Calcutta the transactions between Banks have been very limited, but a fair amount of 60 days' sight drafts has been placed in the Bazaar at 1¼ per cent. discount. For demand will still quote par.

On China, the nominal quotation for 60 days' sight Mercantile paper is Rs. 222 per 100 dollars. The latest quotation from Hong-Kong for 6 months' sight Bank Bills on London is 3s. 11⅞d. per dollar, and from Shanghai 5s. 4⅞d. per tael.

Government Securities.—We have not heard of any transactions of importance, and values are about the same as quoted for last Mail, say:—Fours and Fours-and-a-half Rs. 97⅝ Fives-and-a half. Rs. 101⅞.

Shares.—The transactions of the week have not been large, nor have fluctuations been either numerous or important. Bank shares are firm. Bank of Bombays now stand at 138 per cent. premium, an advance of one per cent. Agras and Nationals have both advanced Rs. 3 per share. Land-Companies have undergone no movement for any kind, and the same may be said of Press Companies, with the one exception of Fort Press which is Rs. 20 per share higher. Spinning and Weaving are somewhat irregular. We quote an advance of Rs. 50 in Alliance and Hydrabad, Rs. 10 in Khutao Mucconjee and Madras United, Rs. 5 in Hindustan and Manockee Petits, and Rs. 2½ in Broach Mills, while there is a decline of Rs. 20 in Neriad, Rs. 15 in Colaba, Rs. 5 in Bombay Hemp and Jute, Dhurrumsey, Great Eastern, and Jewraz Baloo, and Rs. 2½ per share in Nursey Spinning and Weaving.

IMPORTS.

In Piece Goods, owing to the holidays, there has been very little done from first hands, the sales being only estimated at about 400 packages, but a steady business has been passing in the Bazaar latterly, and clearances are reported to the extent of about 1,400 packages. Up country buyers have apparently commenced laying in their monsoon supplies, and we may, therefore, look for steadier buying than has been the case for some time previously, at the same time stocks here being so liberal we are not likely to see any marked improvement in prices. So far, in fact, the slight increase in buying has been accompanied in most cases with if anything rather easier rates, and we question whether anything short of an important rise in Manchester would have much effect here. In Grey Goods the demand still runs chiefly on the lighter makes of 40 inch Shirtings, Madapollams, Jacconets, and Mulls; Wide Shirtings and other goods being comparatively neglected. Of White Goods the clearances have been mostly in Shirtings, Mulls, and Jacconets, with some little enquiry for Lappets. Dyed and Printed Cloths have been but sparingly dealt in, and Turkey Reds have only been saleable at a reduction from current quotations.

Twist.—There is no change to notice in English Yarns. Prices are unaltered, and the demand continues slow. Local Spinnings, however, are still in fair request.

Metals.—*Copper.*—The enquiry has fallen off again, and the market is dull at a decline of As. 4 to As. 8 per cwt. all round, notwithstanding very moderate supplies. *Yellow Metal* is also dull at a reduction of As. 8. per cwt. *Iron* is a trifle firmer, and Swedish and British Bars may be quoted Re. 1. per candy higher.

Coals.—We have not heard of a single transaction to arrive during the week, there being do sellers except at rates considerably over the nominal quotations. Ready Stocks are large, and consumers being well supplied, there is no demand of any importance on the spot, although there are willing buyers of late Cape shipments. We quote nominally to arrive, Davison's West Hartley Rs. 18, Laird's Welsh Hartley Rs. 16½. Watson's Hartley Rs. 16½, Cardiff Rs. 16½ per ton alongside.

EXPORTS.

Cotton.—Up to the day before the holidays the Liverpool advices were dull in the extreme, the sales only averaged a little over 5,000 bales per day, and prices were quoted ⅛d. to 3-16d. per lb. lower both on the spot and to arrive. The more hopeful appearance of political matters on the Continent, however, gave an improved tone to the market on Thursday, and the sales reached 12,000 bales. In sympathy with these advices our market showed great dulness with a fall of Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 per candy during the early part of the week. On Thursday a slightly better enquiry was manifested, and during the holidays active buying took place, leading to a recovery of Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per candy from the lowest point, at which the market closes firm.

The transactions in Bombay during the week make up the considerable total of 22,000 bales, about half of which consists of Ginned Broach, and the remainder of about equal quantities of Dhollera and Omrawuttee.

The *Clearances* for sea this week have been 33,117 bales, making 265,229 bales since 1st January, an excess of about 60,000 bales as compared gith the corresponding date last year.

The *Receipts* from up country during the week have been 55,652 bales, making 561,588 bales since 1st September last.

There is nothing fresh to report in connection with the crop. Omrawuttee is now beginning to show unmistakeable signs of tailing off, but the total of this description for the season does not look like falling much, if any behind last year. Broach is still arriving freely, but the quality is rapidly falling off, and very little is to be had over Fully Good Fair. About five-eighths of the crop of this kind has probably now come in, and as Compta and Dharwar will be insignificant in quantity, we shall have now to depend mainly on Dholleras, of which the arrivals are now becoming important. So far as can yet be seen the quality of Dhollera all round will prove if anything under the average, but the yield is good in most districts. The local Spinning Companies are already beginning to buy it very freely in place of Compta, and as they will shortly have to cover their monsoon requirements, this is a feature which will have considerable effect on the quantity available for export.

The following are to-day's quotations for New Cotton with the equivalents in Sterling cost and Freight to Liverpool via Canal, without Commission:—

Full-pressed				₩ Candy	C. & F. ₩ lb.
New Hinganghaut	Best	Ready	Delivery	...Rs. 198	= 5½d.
" Ginned Broach	do.	do.	do.	... " 198	= 5½d.
" Akote	do.	do.	do.	... " 190	= 5¼d.
" Omrawuttee	Good.	do.	do.	... " 187	= 5 1/16d.
" Do.	F. G. F.	do.	do.	... " 186	= 5 1/16d.
" Do.	G. F.	do.	do.	... " 185	= 5d.
" Dhollera	Good	do.	April dely.	... " 192	= 5 3/16d.
" Do.	F. G. F.	do.	do.	... " 189	= 5⅛d.
" Do.	G. F.	do.	do.	... " 185	= 5d.

Seeds.—*Linseed*, owing to the delay on the railways arising from famine traffic, is coming very slowly, and exporters, having large freight engagements to cover, are buying actively at an advance of As. 2 per cwt., to-day's quotation being Rs. 5-14 to Rs. 5-15 per cwt. *Rapeseed* is in fair supply, and is unchanged in value, say Rs. 6-9 to Rs. 6 10 per cwt.

Wheat.—Stocks are very small, only a few parcels of New Crop having yet come to hand. Home advices being also firmer, any parcels of approved quality are brought up at high rates. We quote soft White Rs. 31½ to Rs. 33, Mixed Rs. 29 to Rs. 31, Red Rs. 28 to Rs. 30 per candy.

GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY

Statement of Traffic for the Week ending 24th March, 1877.

Open 1,268½ Miles.	Rs.	a.	p.
Coaching	1,32,844	0	0
Merchandise	6,69,225	0	0
Telegraph	892	0	0
Municipal Trains	427	8	0
Total Rs.	8,03,388	8	0
Corresponding week last year open 1,268½ Miles ... Total Rs.	6,43,358	12	3
ncrease	1,60,029	11	9

SHIPPING INTELIGENCE.

The s. s. Pehlwan, 51 tons, Captain J. E. Gammon, arrived in harbour on the 29th ultimo from Coast and Goa, with a general cargo, and one hundred and thirty deck passengers.

The s. s. Pearl, 366 tons, Captain W. McGregor, arrived in harbour on the 30th ultimo, from Coast and Cutch, with a general cargo and seventy-five deck passengers.

The s. s. Zante, 1,022 tons, Captain P. Shilston, arrived in harbour on the 30th ultimo, from Liverpool (March 2nd), via Port Said and the Suez Canal, with a general cargo.

The B. I. S. S. N. Co's s.s. Ethiopia, 1,314 tons, Captain J. H. Atkinson, sailed on Saturday last for Calcutta via Tuticorin and Colombo, with a general cargo and two deck passengers.

The B. I. S. S. N. Co's s.s. Penang, 475 tons, Captain H. Frank, sailed on Saturday last for Coast and Calcutta, with a general cargo, and the following passengers:—Surgeon Major Nichols, Mr. and Mrs. Russell, and some deck passengers.

The P. and O. Co's s.s. Tanjore, 1,402 tons, Captain W. H. Pockely, sailed on Saturday last for Australia &c., with Australian Mails, general cargo, and the following passengers:—For Melbourne.—Col. and Mrs. A. G. Davidson, Miss Davidson, Mr. A. H. Barren, Capt. Pardoe, Major R. Griffith, Mr. Byren, Mr. A. Campbell, Mr. Baldeck, and Mr. Bastion. For King George Sound.—Mr. H. Metheringham.

The B. I. S. N. Co.'s s.s. Umballa, arrived yesterday from Persian Gulf and Kurrachee with the following passengers:—Col. Bell, Col. Castor, Mr. Steiner, Lieut. Gibbs, Surg. Major, Parr, Mr. Haig Mr. Heenan, Capt. Young, Capt. Cunliffe, Mr. Hoossain, Mr. Parker and Mr. Richards, 5 men, 1 woman, 3 children, of D.—4 R. A., 12 men, 2 women, 7 children, of B.—9 R.A., 39 men, 3 women, 14 children, of 56th Regt. and 33 deck passengers.

ARRIVALS.

Mar.	Vessels.	Commanders.	From.
29	Pehlwan (s)	Gammon	Goa, Mar 25.
30	Pearl (s)	McGregor	Mandvie, Mar 28.
	Zante (s)	Shilston	Liverpool, Mar 2.

DEPARTURES.

Mar.	Vessels.	Commanders.	Destination.
31	Persia (s)	Merello	Genoa, &c.
	Tanjore (s)	Pockley	Australia, &c.
	Penang (s)	Frank	Coast and Calcutta.
	Ethiopia (s)	Atkinson	Calcutta, Tuticorin, &c.
Apr. 1	Sumatra (s)	Coboraa	Genoa.

The following vessels were entered out for loading on Saturday last:—
Steamer Pehlwan, to Coast and Carwar.
Steamer Pearl, to Coast and Cutch.
Steamer Akola, to K. Coast and Kurrachee.
Ship Khorassan, to Sharpness.
Barque Zephyrus, to Falmouth.

CALCUTTA.

ARRIVALS.

Mar.			
28	Cedric the Saxon	Sawan	Madras, Mar 22.
	Perthshire	Alexander	Liverpool, Dec 6.

DEPARTURES.

Mar.			
27	Border Chieftain (s).	....	....
	Cape of Good Hope.	....	....
	Otter	....	....
28	Ooryia (s)	....	....
	Chyebassa (s)	....	....
	Timor (s)	....	....
	Almora (s)	....	....
	Reliance (s)	....	....
	Grencorse	....	....
	Allumghier	....	....

VESSELS SPOKEN.

By Columbus—Barque Night Hawk 15 miles S W Ridge Floating Light.

MADRAS.

ARRIVAL.

Mar.			
27	Lois	....	Balasore.
	Socotra (s)	....	Calcutta.
28	Carmarthenshire	....	Mauritius.
29	Oriental	....	Rangoon.

DEPARTURES.

Mar.			
27	Sibylla (s)	....	Calcutta.
28	Cosmopolite	....	Gopaulpore & Ganjam.
	Socotra (s)	....	Colombo.
29	Clyde	....	London via Coast.
	Latona	....	London via Bimlipatam

PASSENGERS SAILED.

Per P and O S "Peshawur"—From Madras to Calcutta—Mr E C Robinson, Mr Pryce Phillips and native servant, Mr and Mrs Whitby, two children, and infant.

DAILY EXPORTS.—March 31.

For Liverpool.

Country of Caithness—60 bales cotton, Moolchund Motichund; 162 bales cotton, Motee Jetha; 120 bales cotton, Venechund Jytadass; 475 cwts myrabolams, Jetha Pursotum; 109 cwts coir yarn, Mooljee Jetha and Co.

Khersonese—40 bales cotton, Peel, Cassels and Co.

Childwall Hall s—700 bales cotton, Gaddum and Co; 2,001 cwts linseed, Killick, Nixon and Co; 250 cwts myrabolams, Finlay, Scott and Co; 1,600 cwts wheat, Hurrydass Gangjee; 1,599½ cwts wheat, Stearns, Hobart and Co; 104 cwts coiryarn, Veerjee Vulubdass.

Nellie Martin s—800 bales cotton, W Nicol and Co; 7 bales wool, Gocuidass Toolseedass; 125 bales cotton, Nusserwanjee Manuckjee and Co.

Rinaldo s—50 bales wool, Jethanund Chellaram; 125 cwts ambahuldee, Moolchund Motichund.

Pera s—10 cases ginger, P and O S N Co.

For London.

J C Stevenson s—150 bales cotton, Knoop and Co; 12 packages sandalwood and 13 bags borax, Ruttonjee Manockjee and Co.

Mirzapore s—4,339 cwts rapeseed, Ralli Brothers; 21½ cwts moyeteeth, Annundjee Visram; 50 bales hides and 4 bales skins, Mulick Adam Ellias and Co; 5 bales hides, Peerbhoy Damjee; 10 bales hides, Fazul Mahomed Dama; 8 bales hides, Goolamhoosein Mahomed; 10 bales leather, 28 cases cardamons and 7 bags pepper, P and O S N Co.

For Sharpness.

Khorasan, s—21000 cwts linseed, Killick, Nixon and Co.

For Dunkirk.

Glamorganshire—90 cwts linseed, Volkart Brothers.

For Havre.

Minerva s—1767 cwts rapeseed, Ralli Brothers.

For Trieste.

Pera s—12 bags coffee, P and O S N Co.

For Venice.

Pera s—100 bales cotton, Gaddum and Co.

For Genoa.

Sumatra s—150 bales cotton, Gaddum and Co.

For Naples.

Sumatra s—100 bales cotton, Knoop and Co.
Tuscany s—200 bales cotton, Volkart Brothers.

For Marseilles.

Sumatra s—800 cwts wheat, Finlay, Scott and Co.

For Suez

Pera s—56 bags coffee, P and O S N and Co.

For Hongkong.

Zembesi s—32 bales cotton, Currimbhoy Ebram; 125 bales cotton, Goolam Hoosein Janmahomed; 10 bales cotton, Jairazbhoy Peerbhoy; 12 bales twist, A Habibbhoy; 5 bales twist, S N Jaitee; 37 bales twist, Jairazbhoy Peerbhoy; 6 bales twist, Hormusjee Manuckjee Pocha; 25 bales twist, Goolamhoosein Janmahomed; 25 bales twist, Ludha Devjee 2 boxes silver coin, Jewanjee Nowrojee; 200 baskets onions, Hasson Lalji; 400 baskets onions, Shaik Mahomed; 4, cwts Cambay stone, Veerchund Gulabchund; 193 chests opium, E D Sassoon and Co; 19 chests opium, Jairazbhoy Peerbhoy; 22 chests opium, Cursetjee Bomonjee and Co; 5 chests opium, Merwanjee Manuckjee and Co; 12 chests opium, S N Tulatee.

For Shanghai.

Zambesi s—16 chests opium, Tarachund Luchmenaron; 9½ chests, opium, Joseram Jairaz; 14½ chests opium, Cursetjee Bomanjee and Co; 10 chests opium, Tezpall Nursidass.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

GOVERNMENT OBSERVATORY, COLABA.

Bombay, 30th March 1877.

Means of observations taken at 6 a.m., 10 a.m., 2p.m., 4 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Barometer corrected	32 deg. Fah	29·885
Temperature of the Air		79·6
Wet Bulb Thermometer		72·1
Dew Point		68·8
Relative humidity of Air		0·705
Extent of cloudy sky (the whole sky clouded=8).		1·6
Maximum temperature of air (read at 6 p.m)		85·2
Minimum do. do. (read at 9-30 a. m.)		73·2
General Direction of wind		WNW, NW, E, ESE, NW, WNW, NW.
Movement of wind in 24 hours		311.

HIGH COURT.—2nd April.

(Before the Honourable Sir Charles Sargent,)

Long Causes.

365-76—Lynch and Tobin—Kevulbhoy Jaichund vs Nahalchundbhoy Nathoobhoy and others—Tyabjee and Syani.—Part heard.
573-76—Rimington, Hore and Langley—Lalavahoo and another vs Premjee Mooljee and others—Shapoorjee and Thacurdass and H and C.
188-76—Chalk—Meredith Jones vs Joseph C. Lawrence and others—Jefferson and Payne.
229-76—L Fletcher—Nameebai vs Pudma Maloo—Balcrishna and B.
660-76—M H Khan—Eliazer Esoobjee Sanker vs Nenbai widow—Tyabjee and Sayani.
228-76—Prescot and Winter—A Buchanan and others vs Hajee Abdoolraman Allarukia—Craigie, Lynch and Owen.
413-74—Tyabjee and Sayani—Nujmoodeen Shaikally vs Zenaboo widow and others—Jefferson and Payne.
653-76—Balkrishna and B—Eduljee Cursetjee C vs Eduljee Nusserwanjee J—J C Cama.

(Before the Honourable Mr. Justice Bayley.)

Long Causes.

204 75—Macfarlane and G—Cullianjee Nemchund and others vs Bai Vijcore—Craigie, Lynch and Owen.—Part heard.
27-76—L Fletcher—Mahaluxmibai vs Jumnabai—Jefferson and Payne.
561-74—Jefferson and Payne—Pranjivundass Doolubdass vs Dewali—Mr Fletcher.
698-76—Hearn and C—Dinnanath Rughoonath K and another vs Merwanjee Framjee &c, and others—Craigie, Lynch and Owen.
441-76—Lynch and Tobin—Cooverbai and others vs Thucker Jairam Hurry—Prescot and Winter.

(Before the Honourable Mr. Justice Green.)

Long Causes.

84-76—Shamrao P—Hurrishunker Balcrushna and others vs Crustnarao Raghoonath and others—Crawford and Boevey and Jefferson and Payne and in person—Part heard.
256-76—Mr J Macfarlane—Manockiall Atmaram vs Dwarkadass Daybhoy—Pestonjee K.
550-76—Lynch and Tobin—The L B and M Bank Ld vs Ghella Heerjee—Prescot and Winter.
316-76—Shapoorjee and Thacurdass—Cursondass Vullubdass vs Dyal Ruttonsey and another—Jefferson and Payne.
490-76—In person (Pauper)—Dhondee Chandroojee vs Bhinbai widow—N N Kothare.
269-76—In person (Pauper)—Dinbai and another vs Cursetjee Hormusjee B—Prescot and Winter.
244-77—R Skipsey—J J Bocario and another vs J Bocario and another—Craigie, Lynch and Owen.
379-75—Lynch and Tobin—The L B and M Bank Ld vs B Goolam Hoosein—Tyabjee and Sayani.
37-76—Shapoorjee and Thacurdass—Kurshedjee Rustomjee Cama and another vs Hurbun Nursey and others—Macfarlane and G and Janardhan and Ghandibhoy.
238-75—Crawford and Boevey—Hurgovun Chuttoo and another vs The Khutao M S and Weaving Co—Craigie, Lynch and Owen.
467-76—Lynch and Tobin—The L B and M Bank Ld vs Sumsoodeen Cassumjee—N N Kothare.

(Before the Honourable Mr. Justice Pinhey.)

Notice.

New Long Causes fixed for 2nd April will be called upon the abovementioned day, but only undefended suits will be proceeded with, or Consent Decrees taken—Defended suits will come on in their order after Suit No 624 of 1876.

New Long Causes.

477-76—Lynch and Tobin—The L B and M Bank Ld vs Dayabhoy Dyaram—Tyabjee and Sayani.
7-77—Shapoorjee and Thacurdass—Shamjee Ludha and others vs Curson Bawa—Khunderao Morojee.
246-77—F Chalk—Premdass Toolsidass vs Khimjee Jairam—Fletcher and Smith.
247-77—Balkrishna and B—Babool Balajee vs Moja Jeepa—Jefferson and Payne.
252-77—Ardaser and H—Bachoobai vs Dwarkadass Sungjee—Jefferson and Payne.
258-77—A F Turner—Rajoo Balloo vs Crushnarao Ramchunderjee and others—Tyabjee and Sayani.

Long Causes.

27-77—J Macfarlane—Morarjee Tulsidass vs Bhanjee Nandee and others—Shapoorjee and Thacurdass.
694-76—Lynch and Tobin—Mooljee Hunsraj vs Hajee Adam Hajee Esmail—M H Khan—Part heard.

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

ARRIVALS.—March 29.

Mainguy, Lieut, Madras R A, on leave, from Hingoli.
Primrose, Major Genl, Bombay Commanding Poona Division, on duty, from Eng and.
Bury, Lieut, Bombay Staff Corps, on duty, from England.
Hayden, Surg Major, Bombay A M D, on duty, from Purandhor.
Turton, Lieut Col, Madras 5th Regt N I, on leave, from Aurungabad.

March 30.

Houstoun, Capt, Madras R A, on leave, from Secundrabad.
Haines, Surgn Major, Bombay A M D, on leave, from Mhow.
Hill, Major, Bengal R A, on leave, from Lucknow.

DEPARTURES.—March 29.

Seddon, Sub Lieut, Bombay 28th Regt N I, on duty, to Rajkote.
Shaw, Sub Lieut, Madras 34th Regt N I, on duty, to Bangalore.
Shaw, Sub Lieut, Bombay 17th Foot, on duty, to Mhow.
Blacker, Lieut, Bombay R A, on duty, to Gwalior.

March 30.

Atunsom, Sub Lieut, Madras 31st Regt N I, on duty, to Secundrabad.
Booth, Lieut, Madras 33rd Regt, to rejoin, to Camptee.
Bell, Major, Madras Staff Corps, to join, to Akola.
Stone, Lieut, Bengal R A, on duty, to Calcutta.
Smyth, Lieut, Bombay 66th Regt, on duty, to Ahmednuggur.
Kilsay, Surgn Major, Bengal A M D, on duty, to Allahabad.

March 31.

Mainguy, Lieut, Madras R A, on leave, to Poona.
Morse, Capt, Bombay 9th Regt N I, on leave, to Genoa.
Bonstorn, Capt, Madras R A, on leave, to England.
McCausland, Major, Bombay R A, on leave, to Kirkee.
Robson, Capt, Bombay R A, on duty, to Kirkee.
Haig, Lieut Col R E, on furlough, to England.

April 1.

Johnstone, Lieut Col, Bombay 15th Regt N I, to retire, to Genoa.
Meridith, Lieut, Bengal 1-6th Foot, to rejoin, to Delhi.
Rennie, Major, Madras 44th Foot, from leave, to Secundrabad.

BOMBAY ARMY ORDERS.

By His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

Adjutant General's Office, Head Quarters,

Poona, 31st March 1877.

With reference to G G O No 166, 28th Feb, Maj Genl Primrose, C S I, is posted to the Poona Divn.

Under instructions from the Horse Guards, Sub Lt W T Fairbrother, 1st Battn, 11th Foot, will proceed to England, by the next Troopship to rejoin his Regt.

Sub Lt Fairbrother will travel to Bombay by Rail at the public expense.

The C-in-C is pleased to make the following appointment:—

1st Regt Sind Horse—Capt C A Lucas to retain the Adjutancy on promotion to Capt.

The undermentioned Officers recently Gazetted to be supernumeraries in their Regts as probationers for the Indian S C, are posted as follows:—

1st Regt Light Cavalry—Sub Lt L A Gordon, 59th Foot.
10th Regt N L I—Sub Lt J S Ashby, 1st Battn, 12th Foot.
12th Regt N I—Sub Lt F W Hittuck, 1st Battn, 17th Foot.
15th Regt N I—Sub Lt F C Stayner, 1st Battn, 5th Foot.
18th Regt N I—Sub Lt H M Prior, 54th Foot.
21st Regt N I—Sub Lt H Mevill, 44th Foot.
22nd Regt N I—Sub Lt J C Francis, 62nd Foot.
23rd Regt N L I—Sub Lt R I Scallor, 2nd Foot.
25th Regt N L I—Sub Lt E Ingils, 73rd Foot.
28th Regt N I—Sub Lt C R Seddon, 92nd Foot.

The undermentioned officers returned to duty by permission of the Secy of State for India on the dates specified:—

Lt Col C L R Glasford, S C (Depy Commissioner Central Provinces) 22nd March 1877.

Dep Asst Commissary Homy Lt C Pain, P W Dept, 27 March 1877.

The undermentioned are reported to have passed the required Examination in "Hindustani" according to the Lower Standard test:—

Royal Engineers—Serjt A Foot.
No 1190 Lance Corporal R Watts.
2nd Batt 7th Foot—Sub Lt G D Gibbs (attached to 5th N L I)
2nd Batt 11th Foot—Lt T S Coppinger.
No 676 Corporal J Parsons.
Ordnance Dept—Magazine Serjt J Smiley
Indian Medical Dept—Surgn J E Ferguson.

The following Orders are confirmed:—

11th Foot (2nd Battn)—Regtl Order, dated 16th March 1877, appointing Lt J Browne, Interpreter to the Regt, as a temporary measure, in the absence of a qualified officer.

15th Foot (2nd Battn)—Regtl Order, dated 9th March 1877, appointing Capt W L Barr to officiate as paymaster from the 13th Jan 1877.

56th Foot—Regtl Order, dated 25th Feb 1877 appointing Lieut Ford, in the absence of a qualified officer, Interpreter to the Regt from 1st March 1877, vice Lt Barker, appointed to the B S C.

The undermentioned officers have leave of absence:—

Royal Horse Artillery—Col A Light (F Bgde) from date of embarkation, to England, per Troopship, to appear before a medical Board

Royal Artillery—Col C R O Evans (8th Bgde) from date of embarkation, to England, per Troopships, to appear before a Medical Board.

Col G Selby (21st Bgde) from date of embarkation, to England per Troopship, to appear before a Medical Board.

Lieut P F P Hamilton (B Battery 5th Bgde) from date of embarkation, to England, per Troopship, to appear before a Medical Board.

Royal Engineers—Maj J T Twigge, to England, per Troopship, from date of embarkation, to appear before a medical Board. Fit for duty with Troops.

Lt J L Fixott (C Battery 4th Bgde) from 15th March 1877 to 12th June 1877, on private affairs.

Army Medical Dept—Surg Maj F J Shortt, J Middleton, and Surgn E F Bouit, to England, per Troopship, from date of embarkation to appear before a Medical Board.

ORDERS BY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN INDIA.

(*Adjutant General's Office, Simla, 16th March 1877*).

The C-in-C India is pleased to make the following appointments:—

29th Native Infantry—Capt T St Q Clutterbuck, Genl List Infy, (on furlough,) attached, to be Wing Officer to complete the establishment.

35th Native Infantry—Lt F T Goodridge, Wing Officer 13th N I, to be Wing Officer, vice Burgess, and to continue to officiate as Adjt, in addition to his other duties.

Maj Genl F F Maude, c b and v c, is transferred from the command of the Allahabad to that of the Rawal Pindi Divn; the transfer to have effect from the date on which the tenure of command of Maj Genl A Macdonell, c b expires.

Bgdr Genl M A S Biddulph, c b, is transferred from the Sialkot Bgde, to the Rohilcund Dist, in succession to Maj-Genl W Payne, c b, who vacates on promotion.

Col H P de Teissier, R H A, is directed to proceed from Fyzabad to Rawal Pindi, for duty with the R A at that station.

Lt Col F W Stubbs R A, is directed to proceed from Lucknow to Meean Meer, on special duty.

Under Clause 2 para 159, Sec V Part II, Transport Regulations.

M J H Jones, R' Engrs, is directed to proceed from Meerut to Meean Meer, on special duty.

Under clause 2, para 159, sec V, part II, Transport Regulations.

With the sanction of Govt. the three months' leave of absence on medical certificate, granted to Maj W J Finch, R A, in G O C C dated the 8th Aug 1876, p 352, is cancelled.

With reference to G O C C dated the 24th Jan 1877, p 34, Offg Depy Surgn Genl J Hannan, took over charge of the Sirhind Circle from Surgn Genl T Crawford, M D, on the 30th Jan 1877, and was relieved of the medical superintendence of that circle, by Depy Surgh Genl H Kendall, M D, on the 23r Feb 1877

The candidate named below has been reported by the Board of Examiners, Fort William, to have attained the undermentioned standard agreeably to Sec 23 Bengal Army Regulations:—

Higher Standard in Hindostanee—Lt W W Lean, 65th Foot, on probation 18th N I.

The following orders are confirmed:—

Rawal Pindi Division Order dated the 26th Feb 1877, making the following appointments for a detachment of invalids proceeding to Bombay:—

Lt and Local Capt J Lovell, 2-9th Foot, to command to Goojranwala; Capt J A F H Stewart-Mackenzie, 9th Lancers, from thence to Bombay.

Lt W Boxwell, 51st Foot to be Adjt and Qr Mr.

Lt W A Ramsay, 4th Hussars, Lt W H M Wade, 1-8th Foot, and Lt H J Shuckburg, 2 9th Foot, to be Section Commanders.

4th Hussars—Regtl Order, dated the 20th Feb 1877, appointing Lt F W Hemming to officiate as Interpreter to the Regt, in addition to his duties as Musketry Instructor, with effect from the 1st idem, vice Lt H F Grant, appointed Aide-de-Camp temporarily to the C-in-C in India.

34th Foot—Regtl Order, dated the 30th Oct 1876, appointing Lt R W Andrews to act as Asst Instructor, vice Lt J F Chisholm-Batten, as Instructor of Musketry, with effect from the 28th Oct 1876.

85th Foot—Regtl Order, dated the 2nd March 1877, appointing Capt F W Robinson to be a member of the committee of paymastership appointed by G O C C 28th Nov 1876, p 585 with effect from the 1st idem, vice Capt G N Atkinson, proceeding on furlough.

The undermentioned officers have leave of absence:—

12th Lancers—Capt L Martin, to England, for three months from date of embarkation, pending retirement from the service.

13th Hussars—Capt W H B Peters, to remain in England, from the 10th April to the 10th Oct next, on urgent private affairs in extension of the leave granted him in G O C C of the 9th March 1876, p 84.

1-3rd Foot—Bt Lt Col F Morley, to the port of embarkation, for thirty days from date of availing himself of it; and thence to England, for fifteen months from date of embarkation, on private affairs

2-9th Foot—Maj F G C Probart, to the port of embarkation, for thirty days from date of availing himself of it; and thence to England, for six months from date of embarkation, on urgent private affairs.

51st Foot—Lt T J Sappings, (Instructor of Musketry), to the port of embarkation, for thirty days from date of availing himself of it; and thence to England, for twelve months from date of embarkation, on private affairs.

59th Foot—Lt J F Irwin, to port of embarkation, for thirty days from date of availing himself of it; and thence to England for fifteen months from date of embarkation, on private affairs.

62nd Foot—Lt E M Nedham, (Offg Wing Officer 36th N I, on probation,) to remain in Calcutta, from the 15th Feb to the 15th March, on urgent private affairs, in extension of the leave granted him in G O C C of the 8th Jany last, p 4.

68th Foot—Maj H Tucker, to England, for fifteen months from date of embarkation, on private affairs.

Staff Corps—Col H King, (Comdt 13th N I,) to Naini Tal, from the 10th April to the 10th Oct, on medical certificate.

Bengal Medical Service—Surgn W W Galloway, M B, (to medical charge 45th N I,) to Mussoorie, from the 10th May in the 10th Nov next, on private affairs, under the rules of 1868

OVERLAND SUMMARY

OF

THE BOMBAY GAZETTE

Compiled for despatch by to-day's Mail.

(WITH SUPPLEMENT.)

Price—As. 4 per Copy.

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NOTICE.

ALL COVERS intended for HIS EXCELLENCY the VICEROY and GOVERNOR GENERAL and PARTY during His Excellency's approaching visit to Lucknow and Nynee Tal en route to Simla should be addressed to the "GOVERNOR GENERAL'S CAMP" without the addition of any Postal Town.

O. T. BURNE, Lieut.-Col.,
Private Secretary to the Viceroy.
Calcutta, 24th March 1877.

MESSRS. WALTON AND LYSNAR,
SURGEON DENTISTS,
12 RAMPART ROW.

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

[The charge for notifying a domestic occurrence is two rupees. The announcement must be authenticated.]

EUROPE.

DEATH.

TRISTRAM—March 8th, at 18, Portland Place, London, William Barrington Tristram, formerly of Bombay, aged 53.

BOMBAY.

DEATH.

ANDERSON—March 31st, at Grant Road, Alexander Charles Freeman Anderson, Preventive Officer, the eldest son of Robert H. Anderson, aged 19 years and 9 months. Died of Remittent Fever, complicated with Gastro-Interitis, within only 20 hours illness. deeply regretted by his family.

OTHER PRESIDENCIES.

BIRTH.

ELLIS—March 22nd, at Sitapur, the wife of Surgeon-Major J Ellis, Civil Surgeon, Sitapur, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

BURGESS—COLQUHOUN—March 27th, at All Souls' Church Sitapur, by the Rev. J. F. A. Gavin, M. A., Chaplain, F. F. R. Burgess, Lieutenant, B. S. C., to Florence Mary, daughter of Archibald Colquhoun, Esq., Retired Bengal Medical Service.

DEATH.

MAXWELL—March 25th, at Gurbi, Eta, Marie Harriet Frances, the beloved daughter of J. W. Maxwell, aged 15 months and 4 days.

The Bombay Gazette

MONDAY, APRIL 2, 1877.

The Viceroy's speech on the Budget will be everywhere read with attention, in the first place because it has the rare merit of being very readable, and, secondly, because it is an honest fulfilment of the intention with which Lord Lytton says he set out, "to embrace eagerly, "perhaps even recklessly, the opportunity placed "within his reach to win confidence by "showing confidence." Seldom has a Viceroy been more frankly communicative, especially on matters of foreign policy; and, as Lord Lytton has been good enough to commit this much to be commended breach of official etiquette entirely for the benefit of the Indian Press, which is, he says, usually condemned to "criticize daily the policy and action of "a Government whose policy and action "are, in nine instances out of ten, un"known to it," we cannot better show our grateful appreciation of such generosity than by criticizing his speech freely with the aid of the full knowledge he has now himself supplied. Now, his chief object is "to dispel fictions by stating facts" about the state of the North-West Frontier and the plans of the Government of India for improving its relations with the border tribes and the rulers of the independent States beyond the Frontier. What we have asserted over and over again is that, having in view the unruly conduct of the Afreedees, and the agitation generated in Afghanistan by foreign intrigues and religious fanaticism, the Government of India had collected troops at Rawul Pindee for a border campaign, and that a formidable military expedition would be despatched beyond the Frontier as soon as a declaration of war in Europe set the Viceroy free for action. Of course, hostilities on the border might be averted by the submission of the Afreedees and the consent of the Ameer Shere Ali to reduce himself to the dependent condition of his neighbour of Khelat; but neither event seemed to us probable, and we inclined to the belief that the Government of India would be compelled to maintain its claims with the sword. Well, was this the correct version of what had been done, and a fair forecast of what the Government meant to do? Lord Lytton says, at first, that it was not. He talks of measures taken to "remedy undeniable "deficiencies in the mobility of our defensive "forces" as having been "misrepresented and "magnified by uninstructed rumour into pre"parations for a great campaign against our "neighbours." Yet a little further on in his speech, with amazing inconsistency, he makes this plain statement:—

> Now during the last six months, we have passed through a time when the Powers of Europe, armed as they still are to the teeth, seemed drifting into a war of which the eddies could not fail to reach and trouble the minds of our Asiatic neighbours; whilst, at the same time, our Frontier seemed threatened with a succession of local outrages and disturbances, greatly in excess of any by which it has been afflicted for many years past. At that time it was, in my opinion, the duty of this Government to place itself in a position of preparedness to defend the interest committed to its charge by military action, should military action, at any moment, be necessary; instead of waiting, unprepared, till the opportunity of effective military action had passed away. I am not ashamed to say that we did not shrink from the recognition of this duty. Had the Pass Afreedees continued recalcitrant; had the recent inroads on British territory been renewed; had the late disturbances on our Frontier assumed, as at one time they seemed likely to assume, a more systematic character, then we might have found ourselves at any moment under an imperative obligation to resort to military operations, in order to punish the murder, or preserve the lives and properties, of our own subjects; or restore and secure the peace of our Frontier. This, however, I can truly say no one would have recognised more reluctantly, or more deeply regretted the necessity of recourse to such measures than myself.

Preparations, therefore, had been made for a campaign, and it cannot be contended that no aggressive action except against the Afreedees within our border was thought of, for the passage we have quoted from the Viceroy's speech follows immediately upon a declaration that British India ought to be surrounded with a belt of Independent Frontier States, kept friendly by "the presence in their midst of earnest, "upright English gentlemen." The natural inference from this argument is that India cannot feel herself secure until the Ameer of Cabul agrees to let these earnest, upright English gentlemen reside at his chief towns; and if he is recalcitrant he must be taught what a foolish thing it is for him to kick against British bayonets. Up to this point, therefore, we find there is no difference to speak of between our "uninstructed rumour" and Lord Lytton's official information. We only diverge in opinion from the Viceroy, when it comes to be a question of the measures demanded by the present situation of Frontier affairs. The Afreedees have made their submission so unexpectedly that one is tempted to ask if all the terms of the new arrangement with them have really been made public, and if they have not been bribed to re-open the Kohat Pass by the promise of a larger subsidy. That difficulty, however, has been removed for the moment, and Lord Lytton flatters himself that he has also been relieved from anxiety about affairs in Europe by "the patriotic exertions of my noble "friend the Secretary of State." We are still sceptical of Lord Salisbury's success in averting a European war, for we do not believe that Russia will give a pledge of her sincerity in professing to wish for peace by demobilizing her army. But, in any case, it must be remembered that the proposed reduction of armaments will be confined to Europe; and nothing is more probable than that the Russian military spirit, repressed from action on the Danube, will burst forth with renewed fury on the Oxus and seek gratification in fresh aggressions on the States of Central Asia still intervening between the Russian and English Frontiers. It is not, therefore, possible now for Lord Lytton to draw back his hand from the work he has attempted, or to relax his vigilance on the Frontier, without exposing British interests to serious risks. We heartily applaud the general principles of his Frontier policy as now explained by him. In his scornful denunciation of the Punjab policy of "alternate vengeance and inaction," and his refusal to be deaf and blind to all that goes on beyond the mountain border, we mark the beneficial influence of political instructors who have taught us the comprehension of Frontier affairs. But when he goes on to say that the negotiations with the Ameer of Cabul will "assuredly not "result in any unprovoked aggression upon the "independence or territories of His Highness, "nor any uninvited intervention in Afghanis"tan," he seems to give a pledge that, in the event of the failure of Sir Lewis Pelly's mission, the Government of India will fall back on the policy of inaction which has left the English without a friend between Peshawur and the Russian frontier. We are persuaded that Lord Lytton himself does not approve of this dishonourable retreat from the position he had taken up; and, if he is compelled to make it, we must not blame him for his weakness of character, but pity him for being tied down on the one hand by the instructions of his noble and impulsive friend, the Secretary of State, and, on the other, by the stubborn opposition of Councillors whose formal minds, set as it were in cast iron moulds, are incapable of receiving a new idea, and of whom he himself says, with unwonted bitterness, in the peroration of his speech, "If I err in my own "judgment as to the course we ought to follow "in the discharge of our responsibilities, I am "fortunately surrounded by able and experien"ced Councillors who are ever ready to correct "me."

We have followed the Viceroy's illustrious example in making the Budget an excuse for a dissertation on Frontier policy; but in truth all he speakers in the debate left the Budget itself for the year 1877-78 almost entirely on one side. Mr. Hope, who has the clearest head for finance in the whole Council, and whose speech, so far as it goes, commands our entire sympathy, did not attempt the delicate task of criticizing Sir John Strachey's estimates; and the other speakers seemed mainly anxious to deliver themselves of their opinions about the cotton import duties, the abolition or reduction of which forms no part of the year's Budget and should never have been talked about by the Finance Minister, especially if he was ready at the first sign of opposition to make an abject apology for having proclaimed himself the uncompromising advocate of Free Trade. The reader who cares to peruse the speeches collected in our supplement of to-day will be amused to see that, as we anticipated would be the case, the financial plans and estimates for the year are not really made in any way the subject of debate. Yet it is already plain that Sir John Strachey made a serious blunder in pitching too high his estimate of the average rate of exchange for Council drafts this year; while the estimates for Land Revenue, Customs, and Excise, are far more favourable than a cautious financier would have liked to sanction, in a year in which the effect of the Famine in Southern India not only in causing loss of direct Land Revenue but in limiting the consumption of duty-paying goods cannot easily be overrated. The Viceroy, brushing aside such petty administrative details, limits himself in his speech to the consideration of two questions of financial policy—the construction of public works and the mode of dealing with the depreciation of silver. He has the courage to state that the Government must at any cost continue its expenditure on public works; and, with a candour that Sir John Strachey cannot like, he admits that the object of decentralization is to throw on the Provincial Governments the responsibility of raising the additional revenue to pay the interest on such works. As the Lieutenant Governors of Bengal and the North-West Provinces like the change, and the people have nothing to say in the matter, it is no business of ours to find a grievance in this extension of Lord Mayo's policy. When Bombay is brought within the scheme, we shall understand its operation more clearly; but this much is plain already, that the simple meaning of decentralization is to save the Imperial Government the trouble and the odium of devising the means wherewith to meet their liabilities.

It is satisfactory to know that there will be no abandonment of the process of enriching India by borrowing English capital to be spent on railways, canals, and similar reproductive works. Mr. Fawcett and other shortsighted political economists recommended last year that this course should be taken, because, owing to the depreciation of silver, the loss by exchange resulting from the accumulation of loans in England on which the interest is payable in sterling must in course of time become ruinous to the Empire. The value of the property possessed by the State in its railways and canals is now, we are glad to see, fully recognized by the Viceroy and his colleagues, who, however, sympathize with Mr. Fawcett to the extent of wishing to raise all future loans, so far as they can, in India instead of in England. The advantages of raising a rupee instead of a sterling loan are obvious, and have often been set forth by the writer of our daily commercial reports. But our own predilection is for a sterling loan. India should borrow in the cheapest market, and there is a fallacy in the reasoning which lays so much stress on the difference in the interest payable on rupee and sterling loans, and overlooks the gain that may be made on the principal when it is borrowed in England. Let us take, for example, the railway capital of £100,000,000 sterling. This sum was subscribed by English capitalists at a guaranteed rate of interest of 5 per cent. By remitting it to India, the Secretary of State in Council was enabled to cancel drafts to a similar amount, and it may therefore be said that the railway loans neutralized the effect of the Secretary of State's drawings on the Indian Government for about ten years. The annual gain by exchange on this account cannot be set down at less than £1,500,000 to £2,000,000, or say £15,000,000 in all. Then, look at the effect of this influx of capital in developing the resources of India. Sir Andrew Clarke estimates, though he does not give us his *data*, that railways and canals have enhanced the Land Revenue by £2,310,000, and a moiety of this sum may be set down to the credit of railways, in addition to the net traffic receipts, which amount to 4 per cent. on the capital. But the Treasury has also profited largely by the increased consumption of articles paying excise and customs duties which has grown out of the mercantile prosperity consequent on the introduction into India of so much fertilizing capital. We were taken to task last year by Sir Arthur Cotton for saying that India can now pay more easily a "tribute" of £15,000,000 a year than she could pay £5,000,000 twenty years ago; but any one who considers attentively the statistics of Indian trade will see that the country now exports annually twenty to thirty millions' worth of produce which formerly either rotted on the ground or was not grown at all because there was no inducement to the ryot to take fresh land into cultivation; and this sum is, therefore, so much clear gain to India. It seems ridiculous, in face of this enormous aggregate of the beneficial results of investing English money in reproductive works in India, to talk of the paltry loss by exchange on the net interest, which now does not exceed £1,000,000 or 1 per cent. on a capital of £100,000,000. The annual loss on this account is a mere bagatelle. What proprietor of land in India would care whether he had to remit interest to England on a loan at a loss of 8 or 10 per cent. in exchange if with the help of the principal he had doubled his income? From what we have said, it will be seen that the depreciation of silver and the consequent fall in exchange might be alleged as a reason for borrowing more largely in England instead of ceasing to borrow at all. Lord Lytton, on the whole, speaks very sensibly about "the little cloud with the de"preciated silver lining" which arose on the financial horizon last year and soon overshadowed the heavens. He falls into the common mistake, however, of imagining that a low rate of exchange is a national misfortune because it reduces the value of remittances for Indian officials who send money home. This grievance might be done away with by the simple expedient, already adopted for the army, of allowing all public servants to remit a certain maximum proportion of their pay to England at a fixed rate of exchange—say, 1s. 10d. the rupee. As for the country at large, a low rate of exchange is of advantage, inasmuch as it stimulates the export trade; and there seems to be no fear that it will derange the Indian currency. The Government of India has very wisely, therefore, determined to leave the currency alone. It would have done all that can be expected from it, if it had also stated absolutely its intentions about Council drafts and loans; for it is not a high or low rate of exchange, but the uncertainty due in some degree to the capricious and unbusinesslike action of the Indian Government, that injures trade. No doubt, however, fluctuations in silver will be frequent and violent, in spite of anything the Government may do, so long as there is no uniform standard of proportion between gold and silver recognized by the principal commercial nations of the world. Mr. Hope, in his speech last week, made some sensible remarks in favour of a bi-metallic currency, but we would go a little further than he does when he says that England should simply come to an agreement with the Latin Union. The chief disturbing element in the price of silver is the irregular production in America; and, if America would only join England and France in proclaiming a bi-metallic currency, we believe the problem would be solved.

The effects of the terrible cyclonic wave which swept over the Delta of the Ganges on the 31st October last, and hurried into destruction nearly quarter of a million people according to Sir Richard Temple's estimate, are now showing themselves among the survivors in the Chittagong, Backergunge, and Bulloah districts. Death is still riding behind the storm-wave, and victims are falling by thousands to disease. The imagination of the English papers was struck by the appalling loss of life which almost instantaneously marked the path of the storm-wave. They said the catastrophe was so awful that the human mind could scarcely realise what it could have been like. Their feelings were stimulated by Sir Richard Temple's Minute, which described with considerable minuteness how the storm-wave had first appeared to the inhabitants as a dark glittering mountain moving rapidly along the face of the earth and then wrapping everything in destruction; how men and wild animals were glad to remain together in trees until the storm had subsided; and how the wells had been filled with undrinkable water and houses and huts destroyed. The catastrophe worked up their imaginations to such a pitch that when Her Majesty made no mention of it in her speech at the opening of Parliament they expressed indignation and surprise, and subsequently an explanation was published to the effect that the omission was owing to a mistake. Now, sad as were the immediate effects of the cyclonic wave, some of its greatest horrors arose when it had disappeared from the districts it had inundated. Rotten vegetation, the destruction of food and potable water, and the sweeping away of the houses, such as they were, of the miserable population of the Delta, were certain to do their work. The English journals to which we have alluded probably thought that the horrors of the event were instantaneous. It is clear, however, from the minutes which are being published from time to time from officials in the districts flooded, that there is still room for public feeling in England being stirred about the calamity. The descriptive writer has still scope for his talents, the philanthropist for his pity, and the charitable for their charity, for the mantle left by the storm-wave is proving almost as deadly as the flood itself. A memorandum, dated the 13th March from the Commissioner of the Chittagong Districts, states that the mortality in Chittagong from the storm-wave alone was over 3,000; and that as many as 7,399 persons are estimated to have died from cholera between the date of the cyclone and the 31st December. Since the latter date cholera has still been taking off its victims, so that at the present moment it is impossible to say how many people in the districts spoken of have escaped being swallowed up instantaneously by the storm-wave only to survive in misery until they were conquered by disease. In the district of Noakholly the deaths immediately resulting from the storm-wave are estimated at 43,544, and it has been ascertained that the deaths from cholera from that date to the 31st January 1877 were no less than 30,263. Thus, in the district of Noakholly alone, the effect of the storm-wave has been to destroy nearly 80,000 people! It is now reported that everywhere, except on the islands of Hattia and Sundeep, the deaths from cholera appear to exceed those from drowning. On these islands the deaths from drowning are stated at 34,708, and from cholera at 7,133. The Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in laying these melancholy facts before his Government, takes occasion to point out that, dreadful as they are, nevertheless they are not so terrible as it was feared they would be immediately after the subsidence of the inundation, and when the desolate state of the devastated country first became apparent. The total number of deaths from drowning in districts of the Chittagong division and in Backergunge is now stated to be about 100,000, whereas at first it was feared that the mortality in these places would be twice as great. After all, this is but poor comfort, for even taking the figures at the probably accurate estimate which has now been arrived at by the officials, they still show that the catastrophe of the 31st October last was one of the most terrible that has ever afflicted mankind. It has been discovered that in the districts of Chittagong there was not a succession of storm-waves such as occurred in Noakholly and Buckergunge, but that in the villages along the coast, and especially towards the north of the district, there was very great destruction of property and considerable loss of life. On the sea coast, near the town of Chittagong itself, heaps of straw and thatch were found on the branches of trees 18 feet from the ground, and this would appear to have been the height of the storm-wave all along the coast north of the Kurnafoolee. The destruction of property at the port was great; every vessel in the river, except one, was stranded houses were blown down in great numbers, and half the rice crop of the district was lost. If the English press choose to return to a subject to which they have already endeavoured to do justice, we hope they will not omit to give due importance to the fact that the condition of the survivors of the cyclone is full of danger and misery. "Many of the people," say the Secretary to Government, "have tem"porarily left their homes; others are wander"ing about buying cattle to supply their losses, "and the outbreak of epidemic disease has "placed the local subordinate establishment in "a state of disorganisation. The deaths from "cholera, notwithstanding the unceasing exer"tions of the Medical Department, are appal"ling in numbers."

IS IT REMITTENT FEVER?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE."

Sir,—Is your correspondent "Medicus" sure that the fever which so fatally attacked the refugees from the famine districts was a "remittent fever" caused by malaria? I have some experience of the Bombay disease, and, so far as I can perceive, your correspondent is more critical than correct.

OBSERVER.

SUNSPOTS AND RAINFALL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE."

Sir,—You have lately referred to a paper by Dr Hunter upon the connection between sunspots and rain fall. The question is one of considerable interest, and I send you some statistics as to the rainfall in Bombay which you may think worth publishing if they are not included in Dr. Hunter's paper which, I have not seen. I may observe that this relation between the periods of maximum and minimum sunspots and periods of maximum and minimum rainfall is not a new discovery. Many of your readers are doubtless aware of Mr. Meldrum's and Mr. Lockyer's investigations of the rainfall at Adelaide, Brisbane, Port Louis, Madras and the Cape of Good Hope. Mr Lockyer, indeed, some years ago felt himself in a position to state that "the eleven yearly period may be called the Saros of Meteorology." He adds that, as the astronomers of old were profoundly ignorant of the true cause of the Saros period, so the meteorologists of the present day are profoundly ignorant of the true nature of the connection between the sun and the earth.

The rainfall at Bombay compared with maxima and minima of sunspots.

Minimum epochs of sunspots, 1833	44·56
Maximum " "	48·60

Bombay rainfall at these epochs and for a year before and after each.

Year	Rainfall		Year	Rainfall	
1832	72·09	Total ...215·95 Average 71·98	1847	67·31	Total ...259·61 Average 86·53
1833	71·39		1848	73·42	
1834	70·47		1849	118·88	
1843	59·27	Total ...179·40 Average 59·80	1859	81·84	Total ...262·57 Average 87·52
1844	65·40		1860	74 65	
1845	54·73		1861	106 08	
1855	35·10	Total ...185·41 Average 61·80			
1856	71·08				
1857	79·23				

The average rainfall at Bombay for the half century 1825-1874, was 74 57.—Yours, &c. R. G. O.

EXAMINATION IN NATIVE LANGUAGES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE."

Sir,—The existing monopoly and corrupt practices having been brought to the public notice, it is probable that the authorities will try to reorganize the present plan and give every possible facility to candidates for examination, who have to lose the reward for which they undergo all their labour, and have, besides, to spend much more money of their own. All of your correspondents have been blaming the moonshees alone; but I would say that the officers who do so are not altogether blameless.

I would suggest a plan which will keep them from going astray, and at the same time be profitable to them.

Whether the authorities do it or not, the gentlemen should, before coming to Bombay, enquire from their brother officers the names of competent and experienced teachers with whom they may have read before the present practices came in force.

Some moonshees of long experience are still living in Bombay, whom the students can easily find and they should work with them only, avoiding altogether the assessors.

EXPERIENCE.

II.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE."

Sir,—Let me say what I myself know about the dishonesty and unfairness which the teachers of Hindoostanee are given to and the injustice into which the examiners may be (though this ought not to be) unwittingly led by them. A few years ago I went up for the Higher Standard examination in Hindoostani, first taking a very short course with a well known moonshee in Bombay, who, after giving me a few lessons, sent a young man (I think his son) to continue them.

I was more than sufficiently prepared in all the subjects except one, which is rightly considered important; and in talking of the probability of my passing it was plainly hinted to me, in words which no one could mistake, that the only way of ensuring a successful result would be for me to fee (*i. e.*, bribe) the moonshee who marked the exercises.

I declined a resort to such means, and was accordingly "spun," though told by the native member of the Committee (the Britons seemed to take no interest in the matter) that my exercise was in many respects good; and though I knew at least as much of the language as several passed men whom I have met, I cannot indicate the exact method of procedure adopted by the moonshees when they determine to pass an unsatisfactory candidate; but I think it is notorious that not a very few men get through the Higher Standard in Hindustani, knowing but little of that or, perhaps, of any other language. I mentioned the above fact to friends shortly after its occurrence.

I enclose my card, and am, yours &c.,
March 30. WATCH.

III.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE."

Sir,—The letters of "A Commissioned Officer," "Hard Teaching," "Rupee," &c., simply prove two facts—viz., that there are *gentlemen and officers* shameless enough to present themselves for examination utterly unprepared, and dishonourable enough to encourage and abet corruption and bribery amongst moonshees and pundits by making over to them the pecuniary reward which the State very generously but foolishly give to those who can well afford to pay the expenses incurred in learning vernacular languages.

The letters of these correspondents are a libel on the European members of the Examination Committee and on those who have successfully passed the prescribed examination by hard study. I have passed the Higher Standard examination in one of the vernaculars, and I distinctly say that a *prepared* candidate can pass, though the native assessors are aware that none of their clique (if, indeed, there be one in existence) have instructed him in the language. But I cannot with equal distinctness say that an *unprepared* candidate can pass equally successfully as the one who is prepared; I leave it to be proved by those who have tried the experiment by encouraging dishonesty and bribery.

If any candidate thinks that he has not received fair play during the examination, let him appeal to the European members of the Examination Committee; or let him appeal to Government, as was done by a professor in the local Educational Department; and if there really exist that system of bribery and corruption of which your correspondents complain, then, no doubt, it will be discovered, and the guilty parties, both candidates and native assessors, punished as they deserve to be.

I will mention one circumstance which I think relevant to the subject under notice. Amongst the candidates who came up with me for examination was a lieutenant. He told me that he had been plucked thrice, and that he was afraid that "that old—— "Dr.——," (referring to one of the European members of the Examination Committee) "would trip him up for the fourth time." I think this fact speaks for itself. This lieutenant did not say a single word against any moonshee or pundit. He passed the examination; but a conversation of about three minutes took place between the President and European members of the Examination Committee, before Mr. London handed him the usual certificate. If this candidate had been unprepared on this occasion no bribery could have assisted in getting him passed, for the European examiners looked into his papers, &c. and satisfied themselves that he was just fit to be passed.

March 31. H. W.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE

[REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.]

THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

LONDON, 30TH MARCH.

Mr. A. H. Layard, British Minister at Madrid, has been temporarily appointed to act for Sir H. Elliott as British Ambassador at Constantinople.

THE RUSSIAN PROTOCOL.

The *Morning Post* states that England will shortly sign the Russian Protocol on the basis of a simultaneous disarmament by Russia.

SIGNATURE OF THE PROTOCOL BY ENGLAND.

LONDON, 1ST APRIL.

The Russian Protocol was signed by the English Government yesterday afternoon. This it is thought will revive the prospect of an agreement being arrived at between the Porte and Montenegro.

THE TURKISH PARLIAMENT.

CONSTANTINOPLE, 30TH MARCH.

The Turkish Deputies have voted the address in reply to the speech from the Throne.

The address opposes the territorial claims made on the Porte and approves the rejection of the proposals for reforms made by the Powers at the Conference.

THE POPE AND THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT.

ROME, 29TH MARCH.

The Pontifical Secretary of State in a despatch, dated 21st March, to the Papal representatives abroad, maintains the justice of the charges made by the Pope against the Italian Government in his allocution at the Consistory held at the Vatican on the 20th instant.

LATEST NEWS FROM THE CAPE.

CAPETOWN, 30TH MARCH.

The annexation of the Transvaal State to British Territory is expected, and the 13th. Regiment of Foot has been ordered to proceed from Natal to Newcastle (South Africa).

STEAMER MOVEMENTS.

SUEZ, 30TH MARCH.

The B.I.S.N.Co.'s steamer Assyria, homeward bound from Persian Gulf, &c., left here to-day.

THE MAILS.

LONDON, 29TH MARCH.

The Bombay Mails of the 12th Instant, arrived at Brindisi yesterday.

LIVERPOOL WEEKLY COTTON REPORT.

LONDON, 29TH MARCH.

Total Week's Sales of Cotton	37,000	bales.
Amount forwarded	15,000	do.
Do. Week's sales of Surats	6,000	do.
Do. Week's Imports of Cotton..	54,000	do.
Do. do do. Surats..	10,000	do.
Do. Stock of Cotton	1,073 000	do.
Do. do. Surats	38,000	do.
Do. Stock of Cotton in London..	33,000	do.

The Liverpool Cotton Market closed with a hardening tendency. Surats also closed with a hardening tendency.

The London Cotton Market closed with better demand.

Fair Dhollera	5 1/16d.

The Manchester Market showed a slightly improved tendency.

4 per cent. Rupee Paper	84½
4½ per cent do.	84½
5½ per cent. do.	88½
3 per cent. Consols for account	96½
5 per cent French Rente, 1872	108½

The Bank of England returns for the week ending yesterday show the following results :—

Reserve of Notes....£12,800,000....	Dec.	£700,000
Bills Discounted....£23,800,000....	Inc.	£5 50,000
Bullion ....£26,500,000....	Inc.	£200,000

The Proportion of the Reserve to the Liabilities, is 39½.

Arrivals—Cerdic and Branksome Hall

Departure—Presnitz.

The Markets closed till Tuesday next owing to holidays.

IN a supplement we publish all the speeches in the debate on the Budget, including that of Lord Lytton, on which we have commented fully elsewhere.

HIS GRACE the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, accompanied by Colonel Shaw-Stewart, Major Bertie Hobart, Captain Gordon and Dr. Martin, returned to Madras on Thursday morning from Vellore.

THE Political Agent, Cutch, in a letter, dated 24th March 1877, reports that a slight shock of earthquake was felt at the village of Khavda in the northern limits of that province on the 8th instant at 2 A. M., but that no damage was caused thereby.

WE observe that complaints are being made in Madras because there is no appearance yet of the Municipal Act, which was promised to the citizens of Madras eighteen months ago. Possibly, with famine so near its doors, the Madras Government has something else to do than formulating Municipal Acts.

THE *Gazette of India Extraordinary*, dated Calcutta, Thursday March 29, notifies that the Governor-General of India is pleased to appoint, subject to the approbation of Her Majesty the Queen, Empress of India, the Honourable Robert Eyles Egerton, C.S.I., of the Bengal Civil Service, to be Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab and its dependencies.

MR. RIVERS THOMSON, the Chief Commissioner of British Burma, is said to contemplate going home on two years' furlough a few months hence. Two members of the Burma Commission are mentioned as probable candidates for the officiating appointment—Colonel Duncan and Colonel Horace Brown, the Commissioner of Pegu. Colonel Duncan, however, is said to be anxious to retire soon for good.

WHILE the world is listening anxiously to every whisper in Europe about the Eastern crisis, Reuter occasionally telegraphs some startling news. For instance, the other day he sent the information to India all the way from London that the Prince of Wales had deferred his pleasure trip to the Mediterranean because he is suffering from a "boil" The correspondent of a contemporary naturally stands aghast at this information and hopes for the best. He thinks that if public prayers are ordered throughout the British Empire the boil may think better of its conduct and go away.

WE regret to hear that Major Sandeman, whilst riding towards Gundava on the morning of the 20th instant, was attacked by a loose stallion which, having thrown its rider, escaped from the ranks of the troop of cavalry sent by the Khan of Khelat to meet Major Sandeman, who was thrown from his mare and at first seemed to be most seriously injured. He has, however, not sustained more hurt than the fracture of one rib, possibly two, and he was so much better by the evening that he was able to receive the Khan, and hoped to be well enough to travel in a doolie to Shawlkote in a few days. We trust, adds the Lahore paper, that the above news will allay the fears which Major Sandeman's friends may naturally have had from false rumours being set afloat regarding the injuries he has sustained. We trust soon to be able to announce to the public that he has quite recovered.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to the *Hindoo Patriot* :—

> A plant has been newly found out in Lokhipur, the leaves of which turn very much to the shape of a grasshopper in proportion as they grow old, till all the parts of the insects so formed become fully developed ; and each leaf forming a separate insect issues out in a very beautiful appearance.
>
> This plant is known to grow by itself and no second plant has yet been seen to grow from it.
>
> A gentleman in whose house that plant was found to grow noticed it from time to time and carefully watched the progress of the insects forming out of the leaves. One day seeing certain leaves in form of insects fly out from the plant he came to a resolution of getting hold of some of them, if possible, in order that he might show them to his friends, who would not otherwise believe him. With this object in view he set about the task in earnest, and in a short time succeeded in producing two or three insects to the utter astonishment of his friends. And as a member of my family is a friend of his he sent one to ours, and thus we had an opportunity of seeing a wonder.

THE following particulars of a narrow escape of a train on the E. I. Railway from what might have been a most serious accident are related in the Calcutta papers. The driver of the up loop mail of the morning of the 24th saw a fire some distance ahead, but believing it to be only grass or rubbish burning near the line took no further notice of it, until he rounded a sharp curve, when he at once saw the impending danger—a bridge was on fire. As soon as possible the steam was shut off, the engine reversed, and steam thrown against her, and the tender brake screwed on ; the driver also whistled for the guards to apply their brakes. Finding, however, that he could not stop the train, he and his fireman jumped off. The driver escaped almost unhurt, but the fireman was picked up insensible. Although the greater part of the wooden sleepers were on fire, and the flames rose up to the carriages, fortunately the whole train passed over and reached the other side without any accident. Had the train possessed stronger brakes, such as the American automaton brake, made by the Westinghouse Company, the train could probably have been stopped in time.

Truth :—"The Austrians who passed the winter under deck in the Tegetthoff, when that ship was caught in a floe above Spitzbergen, hardly knew each other when the sun re-appeared, for they were all the colour of white paper. This I read yesterday in the interesting account of the Austrian Expedition to the North Pole published by Captain Payer, the captain of the Tegetthoff. In America, young ladies, are accustomed to sit all day in darkened rooms in order to bleach themselves, and this habit accounts for the paleness of Americans. Years ago I passed a winter at Washington. The prettiest girl was a Miss Becky. One day I called upon her, and was shown into a room which seemed to me to be quite dark. 'Sit down,' said a voice which I recognised as that of Becky, and I sat down upon an arm chair against which I had stumbled. I felt myself propelled in the air, and a second voice cried out, "Take care what you are doing. Why, you've sat down on pa. You get out, pa !" observed Becky ; and this was followed by a skuttling, which was produced by pa leaving the room. This was the only occasion I ever had of making the acquaintance of Becky's parent, although for many months I nursed a despairing affection for her."

WE quote the following paragraph from the new Calcutta weekly, the *Leader* :—"The *Bombay Gazette* has hit a blot, obvious enough when pointed out, but which seems hitherto to have escaped the notice of the public press. A great deal has been written and spoken of late about the employment of Indian gentlemen in the service of the State, but somehow the fact has been altogether overlooked that Covenanted Civilians and Indian Graduates do not constitute the entire educated classes in this counrry. There is also an Uncovenanted Service in whose ranks may be found many Europeans of good birth, liberal education, and extensive local experience, including a familiar acquaintance with the vernacular languages. Are these tried and valuable public servants to be flung aside as no longer needed ? Are they to make way for their native fellow subjects, or is the whole administration of British India, with the exception of a few special posts in the executive branch of the Government to be thrown open to all men, Trojan or Tyrian ? From among even non-official outsiders, tea planters, and others, men might be chosen capable of swaying 'the rod of empire' and certainly of discharging the duties of magisterial posts. The present Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, indeed is supposed to entertain scant sympathy for this particular section of the community, but, as His Honour is said by those who know him to be eminently a just man, it is only fair to suppose that he will not allow early prejudices to warp him from the right path."

THE *Leader* says :—"Our local contemporaries, the recognized organs of public opinion in this city, have expressed themselves strongly in favour of securing for Calcutta Mr. Marshall Wood's fine statue of the Queen. A highly influential Committee is being formed for that purpose, and it may now be fairly hoped that the Capital of British India will soon be able to boast of a notable addition to its artistic treasures. Indeed, this statue will be so far unique that there is nothing in India to be compared with it. In Mr. Foley's triumphs of art it is the horse that chiefly commands admiration, the rider being regarded as incidental and supplementary. Lord Lawrence, no doubt, stands out clear and well-defined but was ever a passer-by arrested by the lines of beauty in that straight, hard, uniform mass of bronze, which, but for the colour, might do as well for Lot's wife, as for the 'saviour of the Punjab ?' We trust, however, that her marble Majesty may not be relegated to the bad lights and shades of the Town Hall. A better site presents itself in the quadrangle of the High Court, where the surrounding verdure would be a charming frame-work for the white marble. An objection, indeed, may be urged against this site in that it is not sufficiently public, and we admit the force of the argument. Perhaps the best plan would be to build a bathing ghat with a noble piazza in the Greek or Italian style. A General subscription, aided by a liberal grant from the Government, would endow Calcutta, not only with a beautiful statue, but with a structure that should recall the glories of Athens or Rome."

CAPTAIN A. DUNDAS TAYLOR, Superintendent of the Marine Survey of India, leaves Calcutta very shortly on a tour of inspection, with the object of gathering accurate information concerning the sea-ports at which the British India and other vessels call. False Point is the first to be visited, then Pooree, Gopaulpore, Calingapatam, Bimlipatam, Vizagapatam, Coconada, Masulipatam, and Madras. At Madras we believe Captain Taylor remains for a few days to confer with the Master Attendant of that port, whose administration embraces all the out-ports of that Presidency. After leaving Madras, it is presumed the Superintendent will visit all the Southern Ports touched at by the B.I.S.N. Co.'s vessels, *viz.*, Pondicherry, Negapatam, Galle, Colombo, and Tuticorin, proceeding from the latter place in a small steamer to inspect the Paumben Pass. This will involve a detention in the Gulf of Manaar of probably a fortnight. Thence the tour is resumed, and the following ports probably visited—Colachel, Alleppy, Cochin, Narrakal, Beypore, Calicut, Tellicherry, Cannanore, Mangalore, Carwar, Goa, and Bombay. We see by the charts, remarks the *Indian Daily News*, that that portion of the West Coast of India, which comprises the districts of South Concan, Goa, Canara, and Malabar, was surveyed by Captain Taylor some twenty to twenty-five years ago. Since then many lights must have been added, and ports utilized, which formerly had little or no trade. It is to be hoped that this extensive tour may result in great benefit to the navigator, and enable the Marine Survey Department to issue, with the least possible delay, the necessary corrections or additions to the Indian charts.

A WELL-EARNED tribute is paid, on his retirement, to Colonel T. G. Montgomerie, R. E., F. R. S., in the Trigonometrical Survey report. Lieutenant Montgomerie entered the department in 1852. He helped to measure the Cutch and Kurrachee base lines ; he began and finished the Cashmere survey, an area of some 77,000 square miles. Afterwards as Captain, he directed the survey of Kumaon and Garwhal ; and lastly, he won a European reputation by his Trans-Himalayan surveys. Mr. Hennessey tries to give some idea of the country then covered. From Kumaon northwards, away to the sources of the Sutlej and Indus ; along the Brahmaputra from its source in Lake Mansarowar to the city of the great Dalai Lama ; from the woody heights of Darjeeling to the numberless temples and uncouth idols of the Khatmandoo Valley ; northwards over the Himalayas into Thibet, the land of Bod, and to the great inland lake, Tengrinor ; from Cabul by the Bamian Pass to the ancient Balk, and to the kingdoms on the Upper Oxus, which are ruled by the descendants of Alexander ; still further on over the roof of the world, the Bam-i-dunya, in the footsteps of Hwui Seng and Sun Yun, the Chinese pilgrims, of Maco Polo and Goes ; up to the dominions of the Atalik Gazi, and southwards again to the Karakoram Pass ; from the Balk to Bokhara, from Peshawur to Dir and Chitral ; altogether a length of 4,500 miles has been explored under Colonel Montgomerie's superintendence. It would be wrong for a moment to forget the praise due to the men who have worked under him, English officers like Captain Trotter and native agents like the Pandit and the Havildar ; but we must still remember that with Colonel Montgomerie's name the knowledge we have of the lands beyond the Himalayas will long be inseparably connected.

THE *Madras Times* received a few days ago the following letter :—

> Government Office, Madras 28th March, 1871.
>
> To the Editor of the *Madras Times.*
>
> SIR,—The attention of Govenment has been drawn to the publication of the text of their despatch to the Secretary of State of the 24th instant No. 22, in your paper of the 27th idem. This is the second time since the beginning of the current year that the text of such a despatch has appeared in your columns, and as it could only have been communicated to you by, or with the assistance of some person in Government employ, and in breach of his duty to the State, the Government have resolved to withhold from you, until further orders, all public papers, and to await such explanation as you may have to offer of the means by which you obtained the Despatch as to enable them to judge whether farther proceedings shall be taken against you or not.
>
> I am, Sir, yours faithfully, J. H. GARSTIN,
>
> Additional Secretary to Government.

In his reply, which appears to us very irrelevant, the editor of the *Madras Times* declined to give Government the information desired, and in an article in his paper insinuates that he paid for the information in question and published it in the belief that it had been honestly obtained. Government has every right to feel annoyed when confidential documents are published surreptitiously, and so, we may say, have the public, because the upsetting of arrangements devised by Government for the public benefit must result in an injury to public interests. We are sure that no journalist worthy of the name would connive at the dishonest abstraction by public servants of confidential documents, and the *Madras Times* would have lost no dignity if it had frankly told the Government what it has in a circumlocutory manner told its readers. The following notice has been posted throughout Madras. :—

> A reward of 100 rupees will be paid by Government to any person giving such information as will lead to the detection of the person by whom or through whose instrumentality or assistance the Despatch of the Madras Government to the Secretary of State of the 24th instant was communicated to one of the local newspapers.
>
> (By order) J. H. GARSTIN,
>
> Additional Secy. to Govt.

REPORT ON THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE EMPLOYED ON RELIEF WORKS IN THE TOWNS OF GADAG, BETTIGERI, DAMBAL, NANDUGI, NAWALGUND, AND NARGUND, IN THE DHARWAR COLLECTORATE.

Bombay Castle, 29th March 1877.

Letter from the Sanitary Commissioner, No. B.—322, dated 22nd March 1877.

Reports the results of his inspection of the towns of Gadag, Bettigeri, Dambal, Nandugi, Nawalgund, and Nargund, in the Dharwar Collectorate, together with his opinion on the physical condition of the people, particularly those employed on relief works.

RESOLUTION.—The Sanitary Commissioner's report regarding the sanitary condition of the towns and villages in the Dharwar District is generally unfavourable, and the filthy state of the habitations of the people which he has so frequently noticed, combined with a low water-supply, may, to a great extent, account for the disease which has prevailed for some weeks past in this part of the Presidency.

2. The attention of the Revenue Commissioner and of the Collector should be drawn to this important subject, and endeavours should be made to induce greater habits of cleanliness among the people, and to obtain from the members of the Municipality, and, above all, from the non-official members, a more careful and efficient performance of their duties in connection with sanitation. All local district officers should be clearly instructed to pay unremitting attention to to this important matter.

The acknowledgments of Government are due to Mr. Bhisto Shiwajee Patki, the Mamlatdar, Mr. Gopal Venayak Bhanap, the Subordinate Judge, Mr. Rustomjee Pestonjee Barucha, the Assistant Surgeon, Mr. Bhala Mandhwalappa, the leading Soucar, Mr. Venkadass Goozur, Mr. Chimappa, of Hubli, Mr. Vishram Punt, Head Master of the School, and Mr. Mansing, the Municipal Surveyor, for the activity they had displayed in connection with the relief of destitute persons in the town of Gadag. Government concur with the Sanitary Commissioner as regards the prior claims of indigent strangers and immigrants over those of the professional beggars of the community, and would be glad if the Relief Committee would bear such claims in view. Government do not, however, desire to interfere in any way with the free distribution of private charity, which must be regulated in accordance with the views and wishes of those who supply the means.

4. The Sanitary Commissioner's remarks in respect to the inscription tablets he observed at Gadag should be communicated to the Collector, who should ascertain whether their removal to the Museum at Bombay would cause dissatisfaction and, in that case, should urge the Temple authorities to take proper steps for the preservation of these interesting records.

5. Government are glad to receive from the Sanitary Commissioner so favourable an opinion, not only of the condition of the people at Dambal and Mundargi, but also for the general population ; also to learn his opinion that cholera is dying out from this part of the Collectorate.

6. The arrangements made at Nawalgund appear, from the Sanitary Commissioner's report, to have been commendable and creditable to Mr. Lister ; the condition of the people on relief works at that place was satisfactory.

7. The remarks of the Sanitary Commissioner in regard to the condition of Mr. Manson's grave should be communicated to the Collector, who should be called on to state how so discreditable a state of matters has been permitted to arise, and who is to blame for it ; also what steps have been taken, or should be taken, to suitably mark the position of this grave, and preserve it from desecration, and whether it may not be desirable to transfer the remains to the cemetery at Kaladgi.

8 Government are fully alive to the commendable and patient manner in which the people of the Dharwar district, as well as other parts of the Presidency, are bearing the misfortune that has come upon them, but which, it is hoped, will now very shortly pass away ; and it is especially encouraging to learn from Mr. Hewlett that the richer people are assisting their poorer neighbours by giving them employment of work in connection with the improvement of the land, and in preparation for the next harvest.

C. G. W. MACPHERSON,
Under Secretary to Government.

REPORT BY THE SANITARY COMMISSIONER, BOMBAY, ON THE CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE EMPLOYED ON RELIEF WORKS IN THE DHARWAR AND KALADGI DISTRICTS.

No. 196 E.—686 OF 1877.

Bombay Castle, 28th March 1877.

LETTER from the Sanitary Commissioner, dated Ubli, 13th March 1877.

In continuation of his letter No. F.—36, submits a further report on the condition of the people employed on relief works in the Dharwar and Kaladgi Districts, and offers certain suggestions in connection therewith for the consideration of Government.

RESOLUTION.—This report is, on the whole, satisfactory, except as regards the poor-house at Hubli ; the extract referring to this institution should be sent to the Collector for report, and he should be instructed to urge the introduction of the same scale of diet that is adopted in Belgaum, where the Sanitary Commissioner highly approves of the arrangements in force.

2. The Collector should also be called on to state why work has not been provided for the people at Hubli ; he has abundant authority to do what is needed in this respect, and no application for work really needed for relief purposes has ever been refused. The Sanitary Commissioner should have made his suggstions regarding the want of work to the local authorities direct, reporting them, at the same time, to Government. This procedure would have produced a more speedy result, and, no doubt, the Collector would have been glad to receive any suggestions from Mr. Hewlett.

3. It may, however, be observed that the Hubli Municipality have already been authorised to proceed with the Tirkaram tank, the work mentioned by Mr. Hewlett. On this work the Public Works rates of wages will be allowed, for it will proceed as a Public Work.

4. Mr. Hewlett adduces no case in point of a Civil Agency work, and it is a fact worthy of notice that in Dharwar there are very few of such works, only about 2,000 persons out of 28,000 being engaged on this class of works.

5. Para. 15 of this report regarding establishing kitchens for the supply of cooked food to returning immigrants should be sent to the Collector, with an expression of the concurrence of the Government in the views expressed by Mr. Hewlett, and a request that a report may be made on the measures taken to carry out his suggestion. Para. 7, regarding the state of the Kod Kerur road, should also be sent to the Collector for report.

6. The people of the south, especially such as belong to the wandering tribes of Wuddars, Lemanis, &c., are not so good and robust looking a race as the Deccan ryots, but they are hardy; and accustomed to privations.

7. The case of the indigent immigrants is special, and must be specially treated. Orders have already been sent permitting the Collector to relax the rules as regards relief in the case of these people, and he has been instructed,—

1st.—To form them into separate gangs or parties.

2nd.—When they appear exhausted, to feed them for two or three days, taking no work.

3rd.—To put them afterwards to light work on the Public Works Department rates of wages for a week or so.

4th.—Having gradually got them into better condition, to draft them to Public Works Department or Civil Agency works, according to their capabilities, and under existing rules and regulations.

5th—To be careful that relief is afforded to the young children as well as the older children and adults.

8. The medical aid referred to in Dr. Hewlett's 17th para, has been sent on the former application—2 Assistant Surgeons by mail cart, and 6 Medical Subordinates to be despatched as soon as possible.

C. G. W. MACPHERSON,
Under-Secretary to Government.

REPORT BY THE SANITARY COMMISSIONER, BOMBAY, ON THE CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE EMPLOYED ON RELIEF WORKS IN THE KALADGI DISTRICT.

No. 202 E.—709 OF 1877.

Extract from the proceedings of Government in the Public Works Department, dated 31st March 1877.

RESOLUTION.—Government consider that, in the Kaladgi Collectorate at present, there are special cases of people employed on works under Civil Agency, and seeking employment on such works, which can best be specially dealt with ; and, possibly, in other Collectorates of the Kanarese Division, there are similar special cases, or they may hereafter arise. Such cases may be treated in the manner that has been laid down, as regards the Dharwar immigrants, in para. 7 of Government Resolution No 196 E.—686, Local dated 28th March 1877, with this exception, that the condition of the Kaladgi people being better than that of the Dharwar immigrants, the 2nd clause of the para. may be omitted. The orders will then stand as follows as regards persons who, from any cause, have become much weakened or exhausted, and require special treatment :—

1st.—To form them into separate gangs or parties.

2nd.—To put them to light work on Public Works Department rates of wages for a week or so.

3rd.—When they get into better condition, to draft them back to Civil Agency works and rates ; or, if able-bodied and strong enough, to send them for employment on the regular Public Works Department works.

4th.—Very exceptional cases to be met exceptionally, as ordered in Government Resolution No. 16 C. W.—21, Local, dated 5th January 1877, and care to be taken that relief is afforded to the young children, as well as to the older children capable of work, and adults.

2. The causes which have led to some of the Kaladgi people falling into a lower condition than is desirable, are probably as follows :—

1st.—The commencement of relief works was somewhat too long delayed ; for this, the late Acting Collector, who had full authority to open works earlier than he did, is responsible.

2nd.—There has been only a very limited expenditure in charitable relief, the outlay to last known date, *i. e.*, 24th March, from the Collectors discretionary allowance of Rs. 25,000, having only amounted to Rs. 1,708.

3rd.—The expenditure on the relief of young children has been extremely trifling, amounting up to 17th March 1877 only to Rs. 53 on the Civil Agency works, the number of labourers on which have averged 6,000 persons daily. With the moderate rates of wages that have been allowed—rates to which the Collector has himself more than once objected —it is clear that a man and his wife, with several young children, can, with difficulty, support their family in the absence of the aid of pay drawn for the children under seven years of age, and it was to meet this difficulty that the orders of the 26th December last were passed. These orders have been largely availed of in the Deccan Collectorates, and it is only in the Kanarese districts, and especially in Kaladgi, that, from some causes which have not yet been explained, but which Government desire the Revenue Commissioner will explain, they have not been applied in the manner which was contemplated. Government have also reasons to believe that in the Kanarese Districts the village organization, (see Government Resolution No. 140 E.—486, Local, dated 1st March 1877,) has not been properly carried out, or is not working satisfactorily. Government request the Revenue Commissioner will be so good as to report fully on this very important point, and issue such orders as may be needed to cause the instructions of Government to be immediately and fully complied with, and the arrangements that have been ordered completed.

3. The taluka Officers, Mamlatdars, and Relief Mamlatdars, should be again instructed to exercise great vigilance, and to watch narrowly and carefully the condition of the people, and the responsibility of the Patels for relieving and reporting isolated cases should again be strongly impressed upon them. Wherever necessary, additional Circle Inspectors should be appointed, and relief-houses established at Taluka Head Quarters and other principal points.

4. Another point which also requires attention is that the people should not be left in ignorance or uncertainty of where they can find employment and relief ; and the rates of wages to which they are entitled on the different classes of works should be clearly made known and notified.

5. To summarise the present orders—

They permit the special treatment of special cases as above detailed.

They enjoin more careful attention to the village organization and to the necessity of the judicious distribution of charitable relief, and of relief to young children under 7 years of age.

6. Government expect that in determining what cases shall be treated as special, and that in relaxing previous orders in the manner permitted in para. 1, the Collector will use great care and discrimination, so that only such persons shall receive exceptional treatment as may be really in need of it. A separate report should be made in every case on the establishment of a special gang or party.

C. G. W. MACPHERSON,
Under-Secretary to Government.

INDIAN NEWS-LETTERS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BHOSAWUL, 25TH MARCH.

HIS EXCELLENCY General Sir Frederick P. Haines, K. C. B., the Commander-in-Chief in India, and staff passed through this station by the ordinary mail train to Jubbulpore the day before yesterday. It is said that H. E. has abandoned the intention of his proceeding up the Fortress of Asseerghur (*via* Chandnee) in order to inspect the soldiers' barracks situated there and to see the clearing out to great tank of Assa-Gowlee.

The station master of Dongurgaum who was charged with negligently causing the death of a porter not long ago at his station was tried by Mr. Mahadeo Raojee, an assistant to the Commissioner of Nimar, and sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 150 under the Railway Act 18 of 1854. He has also been removed from the Dongurgaum station on a reduced scale of pay.

It is stated that the residents of Borhanpore gave an entertaiment to Mr. J. H. Morris, C. S. I., the Chief Commissioner of Nagpore, on his arrival there on the 7th instant. The Rajpoot community of that city have also presented an address to the Chief Commissioner who made an appropriate reply thanking them for their kind reception. Mr. J.F. Beaddy, the Assistant Commissioner, had the honour of introducing several jaghirdars of Borhanpore to Mr. Morris.

The Chief Commissioner has ben pleased to appoint Colonel E. Playfair, B. S. C., the Deputy Commissioner of Khundwa, as Inspector General of Police in the Central Provinces, vice Mr. J. W. Chisholm. The latter officer succeeds Mr. W. Neile as Secretary.

On Saturday several plate-layers of the Permanent-way Department were arrested at the Myjee station by the Railway Police for robbing bags of grain from a railway waggon while the train was in motion. They are being tried by Mr. H. F. Aston, C.S , the Railway Magistrate on the Nort-Eastern Line. Owing to the present scarcity and high price of provisions in the district of Khandeish a large number of grain robberies have taken place on this side of the railway line.

There was a large gathering of the Mahomedan residents of Bhosawul present on the railway station last night to receive the sacred hair of their Prophet's beard, which was brought by Moulvi Mahomed Ossman Madrasee from Borhanpore. The hair is kept in the Jooma Musjid as a sacred emblem of Mahomet.

On and after the 1st proximo a new railway station called Khanapore will be opened between Ravere and Borhanpore on the North-Eastern Line and in the district of Khandeish. A notice of booking traffic from and to that station has been made public. A train filled with troops from Jubbulpore passed through this station to the camp of Deolalee. The men are *en route* to England.

It is now under contemplation to build *pucka* barracks on the Wurrungaum road for the use of the men and non-commissioned officers of the G. I. P. Railway Volunteer Rifle Corps at Bhosawul. The days are getting hot now.

BOMBAY.

FIRST EXAMINATION IN ARTS.—The First Examination in Arts, in connection with the Bombay University, will be held in the Town Hall on Monday, the 9th inst.

DISTRICT PLEADERS' EXAMINATION.—In the last examination for the office of district pleader, twenty-nine candidates passed successfully, of whom one is a Parsee and the rest are Hindoos.

MR. A. C. GUMPERT.—The Governor General in Council has been pleased to recognise the appointment, as Consul at Bombay, for Sweden and Norway, of Mr. A. C. Gumpert, a gentleman well known and highly esteemed here.

PARELL SPINNING AND WEAVING COMPANY.—Arrangements are, we learn, being made to start a new mill in Bombay with the above name. Its capital is to be nine lakhs of rupees divided into nine hundred shares of Rs. 1,000 each. It is to contain 25,000 spindles. Messrs. Cumroodin Tyabjee and Cowasjee Dinshaw Petit are to be among the directors.

THEFT OF CURRENCY NOTES.—A European, named William Henry Smith, was on Saturday charged before Mr. Dossabhoy Framjee, at the Girgaum Police Court, with committing theft of eight Government curreney notes of Rs. 10 each, belonging to a Mr. C. Harding. The prisoner was remanded to jail, and the case postponed for hearing to this day (Monday.)

UNITED Evangelistic Services will (D. V.) be held in the Framjee Cowasjee Institute every evening for some days commencing on Wednesday (April 4th). A large choir has been organized, and ministers and laymen of all Protestant Churches will take part. The services at 5 P. M. will be in Vernacular and English for natives only, and those in the evening at 8 P. M. will be in English for Europeans and English speaking natives.

NEW COLABA COMPANY.—It is rumoured that, by reason of the directors having reduced the commission allowed the secretaries and treasurers from 5 to 2½ per cent., Messrs. Remington and Co. intend to tender their resignation of the management of the company. It is intended to alter the articles of association at an early date by inserting in clause 115 the words "but they (Messrs. Remington and Co.) shall be liable to be removed from office by the votes of a majority of the shareholders." Perhaps the rumour and the intended alteration have some connection with each other.

SUICIDE.—A Coroner's inquest was held on Friday last at Lower Colaba on view of the body of Jamsetjee Hormusjee. Deceased was 32 years of age and a brother to Carsetjee Hormusjee, the assistant managing clerk to Messrs. Tyebjee and Sayani, solicitors. Deceased it appears, had been insane for more than a year past, but was always quiet and harmless. He never attempted to destroy himself before. On Friday last he jumped into a well about 4 o'clock in the morning. One hour and a half elapsed before the body was recovered by means of divers. The following verdict was returned by the jury :—" That the death of the deceased was caused by his having committed suicide by drowning himself in a well."

DOG KILLING.—A correspondent sends us an account of the prolonged agonies some unhappy dog was compelled to endure a few evenings ago, near the Hindoo burning ground, owing to the small quantity of poison that had apparently been given it. The sight was very repulsive and was witnessed by many who were being driven past the spot, and for more than half an hour this wretched dog was allowed to writhe in agony on the public road side. Our correspondent adds :— " My sole object in writing this is to ask through the medium of your journal that the non-appreciative public may not be treated again to such a scene of dog suffering as the one on Wednesday evening, and to suggest a more merciful mode may be adopted for destroying those dogs really necessary to destroy."

EDUCATION IN THE BARODA STATE.—Two or three weeks ago there was at Baroda a distribution of prizes to the students of the vernacular schools in a huge *Shamiana* erected for the occasion in front of the High School buildings. H. H. the Gaekwar was present, accompanied by Sir Madhava Rao. There are 101 vernacular and Sanscrit schools in the Baroda State, in which 10,000 students are taught at an annual cost to the State of one lac of rupees. We learn from a correspondent that Sir Madhava Rao has opened an industrial school in connection with the Vernacular College of Sciences. He has got down a man from Lucknow, skilled in pottery and other arts, and he has employed him for the purpose of teaching his craft to a limited number of pupils at first, as a tentative measure. It is in contemplation, I am told, to educate pupils in other professions also.

HINDOO WIDOWERS.—A native gentleman loses his wife. Of course he does not die upon her funeral pile. The attachment between the two halts in the matter of reciprocity, and while it would be the right thing for her to burn with his corpse, it is not the right thing for him to burn with hers. *Suttee* is abolished, in the main, and instead we have servitude and life-long degradation for the widowed party. But this too, only applies where the wife is the survivor. When the husband survives, the right thing is for him to marry again. Whom shall he marry ? All the females of his caste are married down to the little girls of 6 or 8 years old. There are the widows, many of whom lost their husbands in childhood ; but he may not think of these. Even if he be a reformer, he is forbidden to act upon his own principles in this matter by the stern prohibition of all his kinsfolk and castefolk. He may be a speculation reformer to his hearts content ; but in the matter of marriage he must just yield himself to custom, and ignore his own convictions. Whom can he marry ? He must find a little baby whose hand has not yet been solicited in marriage, and propose for her. A correspondent, adverting to these things, suggests that Government should make a law prohibitory of the marriage of girls under the age of (say) fifteen. He says the people would raise objections, but would submit to the law, as they have done to the law regarding *Suttee*. Possibly, the people themselves would be thankful for such a solution of a difficulty that presses upon them more and more every day.—*Bombay Guardian*.

PASSENGERS BY THE HOMEWARD MAIL.

THE P. AND O. Co.'s S.S. PERA, Captain George Hyde, will sail to-day for Aden and Suez, with the English Mails and the following passengers :—

FOR SOUTHAMPTON.

Mr W Savers	Mr G Wright
Mr G T W Wright	Mr Bond and infant.

FOR BRINDISI.

Col Allardyce	Mr W O Clark
Mr Geo Wheatley	Mr C P Cooper
Mr E Vincent	Miss Inglis.

FOR VENICE.

General Walker, R E	Mr E B Cargill
Two Misses Young	Miss Cargill
Mr and Mrs Spencer	Mr T Meili
Mr E Dalgliesh	Col Ralph Young, R E
Mr W Halford	Mr H Prince.

FOR SUEZ.

A Gentleman	Major F G C Probart.

FOR ADEN.

Mr A Muirhead	Mr Neuville.

OFFENBACH'S OPERA BOUFFE, "THE PRINCESS OF TREBIZONDE."

ON Thursday night the Royal English Opera Bouffe Company failed, as might be expected, in "Il Trovatore," their limited resources being unequal to the requirements of an opera so heavy. On Saturday night they returned to opera bouffe, in giving the "Princess of Trebizonde," and were successful enough to have deserved much greater patronage from the public than they had. This opera is one of the most amusing in the whole range of opera bouffe, and some connoisseurs in Offenbachian strains affirm that the gay Frenchman never wrote anything better. It is as absurd in plot as it well can be, and the very variety of the situations has given Offenbach plenty of opportunities for the introduction of sparkling and original music. Cabriolo, Tremolini, Manola, Regina, and Zanetta are travelling mountebanks, the first named being the head of the "family." One day Cabriolo raises his platform before a lottery office, but notwithstanding the attractions of Manola (the muscular female) and of the wax figures, among which the Princess of Trebizonde appears the most conspicuous, the public will not patronise his show, preferring instead to enter the rival house, in which the chief lottery prize is a "baronial hall." While he is waiting for patrons and inviting the public to "walk up," a boy named Raphael, the son of Prince Cassimir, appears on the scene with his tutor Sparadrap. It ought to be mentioned that previous to Rupert's appearance, a sad accident had befallen the "Princess of Trebizonde," which was no less than that the nose of that illustrious wax female had been knocked off, and the old showman had resolved to make his daughter Zanetta do duty for the mutilated figure—a duty which she manages to perform without committing the dreadful mistake of sneezing. Young Rupert enters the show, and falls in love with the Princess, and when quitting the booth he pours into the showman's hat all his loose money and a lottery ticket. Soon after this it is announced that the winning ticket in the lottery is exactly the one which Rupert had thrown to the showman. Cabriolo resolves to retire from the mountebank business and proceed to his baronial hall, where he attempts, amid frequent hankerings after the freedom and fun of his old life to keep up an establishment and appearance worthy of the owner of such a splendid estate. He makes ludicrous blunders, and has to rely greatly upon Tremolini, an old member of the acrobat troupe who, having once been a footman in an aristocratic establishment, is supposed to be well qualified to give advice on points having reference to the etiquette observed in high society. One day Cabriolo and his family are seated in the open air, when suddenly Rupert, who has been hunting, appears before them and asks which way the deer has gone. He recognises the "Princess," and is resolved to have her in marriage. Prince Casimir, an old French beau, next appears, following his son. An acquaintance is struck up with the mountebank family, and after a number of ludicrous incidents, young Rupert is permitted to marry Zanetta, his father not being able to forget that on one occasion he had run away with and married a rope dancer who happened to be a sister of one of Cabriolo's troupe. Miss May as Zanetta had not much to do either in singing or acting, but she did that little well, her ballad about the "Princess of Trebizonde" particularly was sung with great *naivetie*. Mr. H. Vernon, as Cabriolo, sung and acted with plenty of animation. He has a sameness about his elocution and acting which rather spoils the effect of his interpretation of the parts with which he is entrusted, but to balance against this defect he has plenty of vigour which helps to carry the sympathies of the audience along with him. Mrs. Vernon made a sprightly *Regina*. We did not like Mr. Barker's *Manola* ; the character in his care was certainly vulgar. By far the best piece of acting was as usual done by Mr. Batson, whose *Prince Cassimir* was a performance of which no actor need have been ashamed. He imitated with skill the language and tones of the conventional English "French nobleman," and he always knew what he was about in suiting his actions to his words. *Raphael* was poorly represented by Mr. Plumpton, whose *forte* does not lie in imitating mankind on the stage. *Sparadrop* the tutor was played by Mr. Dell, whose "get up" was as amusing as the way in which he occasionally forgot his part was provoking. The play as a whole was well put upon the stage. Considerable liberty was taken with the libretto in order to suit the convenience of the company, but no one had much reason to complain of this. Those who have seen Continental representations of the "Princess of Trebizonde" will remember that Rupert is generally performed by a young lady ; they can therefore imagine that the part in the hands of Mr. Plumpton, a bass of weak powers, was not very successful. They may also remember that in the garden scene, where Zanetta sings the *rondo*, Prince Cassimir and Cabriola and his companions danced *can-can*. But on this occasion the showman's wax figures were like the moral "figgers" belonging to Mr. Artemus Ward, and no *can-can* was danced. The accompaniments were provided by Madame Tasca in her usual admirable style. In the course of the evening, she played the celebrated " Traviata" Waltz, and an arrangement of Scotch airs by Ronville. She was *encored* for her performance of the latter, and obligingly played Thalberg's "Home, Sweet Home." The coming concert in the Town Hall promises to be an excellent one. The pieces which Madame Tasca has promised to play ought alone to attract a large gathering of the Bombay public. To-night there will be the performance of Offenbach's opera of " Genevieve de Brabant."

THE REFUGE CAMP ON THE FLATS.

ON Saturday last, workmen were busy in erecting four more sheds in addition to the six which have already been put up for the accommodation of the destitute immigrants from the famine districts. The eight sheds which have been raised in two parallel lines form a street of a peculiar make, the most conspicuous material used being bamboo rafters and bamboo and date leaf matting. Up to 5 o'clock on Saturday afternoon, the inmates numbered 561 in all, being 240 males, 203 femalers, and 118 children. Most of them are weak and incapable of doing any work. Many are suffering from fever and other ailments. They have been fed at regular intervals during the last three days, and yet their countenances evince signs of their having been famished for many days. In the mornings, Mrs. Grant, who started the " doodh-khana" at Sholapore, distributes milk among the immigrants with her own hands ; and in the evening, the same kind office is performed by Mrs. Falloon. The parents of the infants are made to sit in a row, just as natives sit at their caste-feasts ; milk is brought to the place in large cbatties and the kind hearted ladies above-named dole it out with them own hands into small vessels which are in the hands of the parent of each child. Mrs. Falloon, who understands Hindustanee well, makes kind enquiries while distributing the milk and says soothing words to the recipients. The parents then retire with the milk and give it to their children with boiled rice. Miss Blaney also takes much interest in the welfare of the poor people ; and she and the other ladies have supplied clothing at their own expense for the use of some of the inmates of the camp. Sir Frank Souter, on the application of Dr. Falloon, the medical superintendent of the refuge camp, has posted twenty police men on duty in and about the grounds. Some of the immigrants cook for themselves ; while for those who are unable to do so, female cooks have been employed. A large Vehar pipe has been laid on and supplies water to the camp. Dr. Falloon appears to be indefatigable in his attentions to the wants of the inmates, who have learnt to like him in the short space of three days

THE TRAFFIC ON THE G. I. P. RAILWAY.

THE increase in goods traffic on the G. I. P. Railway for the week ending 24th March 1877 was 1,93,061 maunds and in money Rs. 1,71,027. The quantities carried and the earnings compare with 1876 as follows :—

Description.	Week ending 24th. Mar. 1877.	Week ending 25th Mar. 1876.	Increase.	Decrease.
COTTON—				
Weight	Mds 1,29,686	Mds 1,45,657	..	Mds 15,971
Amount	Rs. 1,67,216	Rs. 1,78,520	..	Rs 11,304
GRAIN AND SEEDS—				
Weight	Mds 4,85,734	Mds 3,07,278	Mds 1,78,456	..
Amount	Rs. 3,04,253	Rs. 1,74,634	Rs. 1,29,619	..
SALT—				
Weight	Mds 44,049	Mds 35,956	Mds 8,093	..
Amount......	Rs. 22,800	Rs. 20,810	Rs. 1,990	..
OPIUM—				
Weight	Mds 3,679	Mds 2,764	Mds 915	..
Amount......	Rs. 3,376	Rs. 2,125	Rs. 1,251	..
P. GOODS AND TWIST—				
Weight	Mds 17,492	Mds 18,850	..	Mds 1,358
Amount	Rs. 27,430	Rs. 19,333	Rs. 8,097	..
GENERAL GOODS—				
Weight	Mds 2,14,092	Mds 1,91,166	Mds 22,926	..
Amount	Rs. 1,41,795	Rs. 1,00,421	Rs. 41,374	..
TOTAL—				
Weight	Mds 8,94,732	Mds 7,01,671	Mds 1,93,061	..
Amount	Rs. 6,66,870	Rs. 4,95,843	Rs. 1,71,027	..

THE TRAFFIC ON THE B. B. AND C. I. RAILWAY.

THE increase in goods traffic on the B. B. & C. I Railway, for the week ending 24th March 1877 was 1,934 maunds and Decrease in money Rs. 2,259 The quantities carried and the earnings compared with 1876 are as follows :—

Description.	Week ending 24th Mar. 1877.	Week ending 25th Mar. 1876.	Increase.	Decrease.
COTTON—				
Weight	Mds 82,176	Mds 79,167	Mds 3,009	...
Amount........	Rs. 50,590	Rs. 52,291	...	Rs. 1,701
GRAIN—				
Weight	Mds 50,439	Mds 39,312	Mds 11,127	...
Amount........	Rs. 11,702	Rs. 7,997	Rs. 3,705	...
JAGREE—				
Weight	Mds 8,706	Mds 21,923	...	Mds 13,217
Amount........	Rs. 4,115	Rs. 12,818	...	Rs. 8,703
OPIUM—				
Weight	Mds 474	Mds 529	..	Mds 55
Amount........	Rs. 1,101	Rs. 1,338	..	Rs. 237
P. GOODS AND TWIST—				
Weight	Mds 4,191	Mds 5,881	...	Mds 1,690
Amount........	Rs. 4,415	Rs. 5,754	...	Rs. 1,339
SALT—				
Weight	Mds 30,383	Mds 33,397	...	Mds 3,014
Amount........	Rs. 6,014	Rs. 6,532	...	Rs. 518
SEEDS—				
Weight	Mds 82,993	Mds 66,830	Mds 16,163	...
Amount........	Rs. 38,500	Rs. 30,706	Rs. 7,794	...
SUGAR—				
Weight	Mds 2,784	Mds 7,781	...	Mds 4,997
Amount........	Rs. 1,451	Rs. 3,886	...	Rs. 2,435
GENERAL GOODS—				
Weight	Mds 1,37,892	Mds 1,43,284	...	Mds 5,392
Amount........	Rs. 41,295	Rs. 40,120	Rs. 1,175	...
TOTAL—				
Weight	Mds 4,00,038	Mds 3,98,104	Mds 1,934	...
Amount........	Rs. 1,59,183	Rs. 1,61,442	...	Rs. 2,259

PROGRESS OF TRADE WITH CENTRAL ASIA.

(A PAPER TO BE READ BEFORE THE SOCIETY OF ARTS ON THE 2ND MARCH BY SIR DOUGLAS FORSYTH.)

(*Continued from Thursday's "Bombay Gazette."*)

Now let us see how trade between India and Central Asia generally has fared during the last ten years.

In a report on the trade and resources of the countries on the north-western boundary of British India, compiled in 1864, Sir H. (then Mr.) Davies gave the following estimate of the value of the trade between India and the countries beyond the mountain frontier of the Punjab :

		Imports into British India.	Exports from British India.	Total.
		£	£	£
From Afghanistan & the countries beyond.	By the Tater & Abkhana Passes	156,513	120,643	277,156
	By the Ghawailra & Golera Pass	130,000	164,000	294,000
	By the Bolan Pass	31,870	18,892	50,762
Jamu & Kashmir		199,950	184,900	384,850
Ladak & Yarkund		9,170	14,434	23,604
Total......		527,503	502,869	1,030,372

At the same time Mr. Davies gave the following statistics of the trade with Kurrachee. Between the years 1855-56 and 1859-60, the imports increased in value from 629,813*l.* to 1,712,751*l.*, and the exports from 604.440*l.* to 947,938*l.*, the customs duties from 8,908*l.* to 52,492*l.* The returns for 1861-62 showed an increase in exports to 1.361,724*l.*, whilst the imports decreased.

Among the exports the following were brought down chiefly through the Belooch and Afghan mountains :

	Value.
	£
Madder	12,328
Assafœtida..	2,296
Raw silk..	17,975
Sheep's wool..	315,104
Horses	92,651
Fruit	14,914

Taking the Punjab trade report for 1874-75, or ten years after, we get the following figures of trades between the Punjab and foreign countries :

Imports...1,157,446 £ Exports...1001,510 £ Total...2,185,956

That is to say, in one decade the trade with Asia from India, or rather from the Punjab, has just doubled in amount. Of this trade that with Kabul has risen from 621,818*l.* to 1,211,535*l.*, whilst that with Kashmir and the countries beyond has increased from 408,454*l.* to 947,417*l.*

I have great difficulty in getting at statistics of the Kurrachee trade in a form suitable for comparison with former years. But from various official documents I glean the following facts :

The total imports to Kurrachee in 1873-74 were 1,481,765*l.* against 1,712,751*l.* in 1859-60, and total exports were 2,025,919, against 947,334*l.*, or a total of 3,507,684*l.* against 2,660,086*l.*

Amongst the articles imported from Kandahar and Kelat *via* Kelat and Bela, wool has increased slightly, but in every other item there appears to have been a great falling off. This I imagine must be owing to the disturbed state of affairs across the border till lately, but now that we have come to terms with the Khan of Khelat, and have secured both sides of the Bolan Pass, there is every reason to expect a great impetus to trade. In the Shikarpore returns I find imports from Bokhara put down for 1873 at 10,000*l.*, and for 1874 at 8,000*l.* As you are probably aware the Shikarpore merchants are renowned for their enterprise ; they are to be found in the bazaars of Bokhara, Tashkend, and some have penetrated as far as Moscow and St. Petersburg.

The statistics of trade between the Sindh frontier and Central Asia are not to be found in any detail sufficient for our purposes ; but in estimating the progress of the trade generally of late years, and the prospects for the future, the recent arrangements entered into between the Viceroy of India and the Khan of Khelat, whereby the passage of the famous Bolan Pass is to be rendered secure from robber raids, are matter for consideration, and also for congratulation. I will not attempt to pourtray the difficulties of the trade in former times ; but would refer you to the highly graphic account given in the statement exhibiting the moral and material progress of India for the years 1872-73. You will there read how the Provindahs, the great carrying merchants between India and Central Asia, have for ages struggled manfully, and on the whole successfully, to maintain a profitable commerce, in spite of the exorbitant demands of the governments, the exactions of the officials and petty chiefs at every stage of the road, the internecine feuds between their own tribes, and the black mail of the various tribes through which they had to pass. Writing in 1873, the able compiler of the statement to which I now refer remarked that if the route were made safe, and the duties in Afghanistan were fixed at a moderate *ad valorem* rate, the Povindah merchants might make four trips in the year instead of one, because they could proceed independently instead of being obliged to proceed in strong caravans, and the value of the trade would assume much larger proportions. In 1872-73 their trade by the Gomul Pass was estimated at 60,000*l.*, and in 1874-75, it was reported that the trade between Khorassan and British territory, *via* the Saughur, Sori and Sakhi Surwar Passes, had risen during the past few years from nothing to 35,000*l.* The Punjab Trade Report for 1875-76 gives more accurate details of the trade with Sewestan, and we may reasonably look for a considerable increase in future years, as the pacific and protective influence of the British Government begins to be felt on both sides of the Bolan Pass. Kermen wool is one of the most important imports by the routes across the Suleiman range, A good deal of this goes to Umritsar, and is worked up into shawls, which of course cannot compete with the Kashmir article in fineness of texture, but being cheaper is more in demand. The export from India of wool is steadily increasing, and chiefly from Sindh and Bombay, a large proportion coming from across the frontier. According to the latest returns, wool to the value of 959,901*l.* was exported last year, as against 465,238*l.* in 1861-70. The bulk of this goes to the United Kingdom, which took 21,365,326lbs. France took 178,854lbs., and the Mediterranean ports took 46,592lbs.

Taking the trade with Kabul we have the following figures :

IMPORTS.	Value.
	£
Churrus	35,770
Other drugs	14,387
Dyes other than indigo	46,353
Fruits..	83,848
Silk..	185,511
Furs	18,275
Wood	56,943
Sandries, making a total of	525,362

EXPORTS.	Value.
	£
Cotton cloths, Indian	210,762
Ditto, European	98,077
Tea	146,353
Indigo..	63,609
Leather	20,517
Salt	11,797
Other sundries, making a total of......	610,879

Taking the trade with Kashmir and the countries beyond, we have the following chief imports and exports :

IMPORTS.	Value.
	£
Silk (Kashmir).........................	21,607
,, (Yarkund)........................	834
Chacar (Yarkund)	1,912
Fruits (Kashmir)........................	11,898
Pashmena	233,021
Pashm (Yarkund)	1,225
,, (Thibet)..........................	2,570
Woollen goods	37,328

EXPORTS.	Value.
	£
Cotton cloths, India, to Kashmir	20,850
Ditto, ditto, to Yarkund..................	29
Cotton cloths, European, to Kashmir	80,662
Ditto, ditto, to Ladakh	9,982
Ditto, ditto, to Yarkund..................	1,886
Salt, to Kashmir............................	50,717
Tea, ,, ...	14,323
Ditto, Ladakh................................	944
Ditto, Yarkund	3,756
Sugar, refined, to Kashmir	17,967
,, ,, to Ladakh................	248
,, ,, to Yarkund	215

The classification just above given of goods destined for Kashmir, or Ladakh, or Yarkund separately, is somewhat deceptive, as a large portion of the exports to Ladakh, and a good deal of those to Kashmir, found their way on to Yarkund.

Taking different items in detail we are informed by the last Punjab report that the import of churrus into India is on the decline, both from Yarkund and Kabul. Wool is principally imported from Kabul and other countries on the west frontier. Raw silk is also on the decrease, and the Deputy Commissioner of Umritsar states that no silk was imported from Bokhara into that city last year. Tea to the value of 146,353 *l.* was exported to Kabul, and the great bulk of this, of course, finds its way to Bokhara. This is an article which fluctuates greatly according to the temper of the Russian authorities at Tashkend. In 1873 there was a tendency to throw as much green tea as could be made in the Kangra and Dehra Doon valleys into the Central Asian market. But next year a prohibitory order was passed, and the losses of the Punjab traders were very heavy. The trade has taken another start, it appears, but as, at any moment, the Russian authorities at Tashkend may issue their prohibition, in spite of all professions and promises to the contrary, this branch of commerce cannot be looked upon as yielding a steady and satisfactory increase.

In the export of European cotton cloth there has evidently been a very large increase, for, whereas in 1872-73, when the largest imports yet recorded were made, the total was 65,587 maunds, during the last year 341,474 maunds were imported, of which 61,711 maunds were re-exported, and of these again 20,000 maunds, valued at 190,000*l.*, went to Kabul, Kashmir, and the countries beyond.

In estimating the prospects of trade with Central Asia, we have to take into consideration the probable increase of population, cost of transit, and facilities of transport, and last, but not least, the political relations of Russia. Hitherto, and till within a very recent period, the heart of Asia has been for centuries the scene of rapine, war, and devastation, and not only were men's minds too occupied with the struggle for existence to devote their time or thoughts to amassing wealth by peaceful pursuits, but their lives were perpetually jeopardised, and frequently sacrificed in the internecine quarrels and party feuds which destroyed the humblest houses, as well as the most powerful dynasties. In the turmoil of insurrection, and in the long and bloody wars which have been waged throughout the Khanats of Asia for centuries, there was little opportunity for families to increase and multiply. In this respect, if in no other, the advance of Russia on one side and England on the other, must have a beneficial effect by establishing a more peaceful state of things. When we were travelling through the territory of the Amir of Kashgar we remarked on the very large number of young children. Peace has reigned throughout his dominions—except on the extreme Chinese frontier—for some years, and the speedy result of this is observable in the growing homes of the peasantry. As peace spreads through the land we shall see cultivation extend, habitations spring up, and communities flourish. The ruins of ancient cities and towns, which were seen on the march of the Seistan Boundary Commissioners, attest the fact of former civilisation, and throughout Central Asia there are traces of life and activity which may yet be restored under the blessings of good government.

It is a fact worthy of note and consideration that the whole trade between Russia on one side and India on the other with Central Asia, which reaches a total of four millions sterling yearly, is transported on the backs of camels or ponies, and there are difficulties to be met with, such as broad deserts and high mountains which must necessarily act as a severe check to a steady flow of commerce, and the heavy cost of carriage acts as a further drag on the increase of trade. According to Schuyler, the chief trade route to Bokhara is from Orenburg through Kazala, either directly across the steppe or by way of Orsk, from 1060 miles to 1160 miles in length, requiring about 47 days. According to him the freight cost about 21 roubles, or 3*l* per camel, and a camel's load may be assumed to be 434 lb., making the total cost of 36 lb., or pood of goods, from Moscow to Bokhara, 7s. 1d., or 2¼d. per lb.

From Bokhara to Balkh by way of Karshi is a distance of 300 miles or 13 days. To Kabul is 350 miles more, needing another 13, or I should say more days, as the Bamian Pass has to be crossed. The direct route through Khulm is shorter, being only 20 days from Bokhara to Kabul. From Kabul to Peshawur the journey is performed in 12 days, and a camel's load costs from 30s. to 40s. carriage. From Bokhara to Peshawur a camel load costs 4*l.* 14s. 7d. in carriage alone, which is the same as from Moscow to Bokhara.

This is Mr. Schuyler's calculation, and he tells us that freights have risen of late years. But M. Glukhowski, who is a great Russian authority on Central Asian trade matters, gives much higher rates. He made the cost in 1869 of transport from Moscow to Bokhara from 3½ roubles to 5 roubles per pood, or very nearly double the rate given by Schuyler. What the cost may be between Shikarpore and Bokhara, I have been unable to find out, but it must be borne in mind that all trade which passes through any part of Afghanistan is subjected to very heavy tolls and unauthorised exactions, and it is a fact, well worthy of note, that in spite of all the obstacles, and they are formidable, and as yet have not been attempted to be removed by our Government, with the exception of very recent arrangements for securing the Bolan Pass, trade between India and the countries west of Kashgar has doubled within the last ten years, whereas with all the professedly strenuous efforts of the Russians, trade from that side has actually declined.

In the direction of Kashmir and Kashgar, without question, the efforts of Government have been exerted, and, as I shall be able to show, with markedly favourable results. Mr. Davies' report dwelt largely on the hindrances to trade through the Kashmir territory. He then pointed out that the insecurity of the road between Ladakh and Yarkund was the principal cause of the decline to zero of the trade between those two countries, but a scarcely less potent cause was the outrageous exactions of the Mahrajah's officials in Le. Even the ordinary custom dues at Le were far too heavy, and, as Mr. Davis remarked, the Kashmir import duties levied on the confines of the Punjab were so excessive as to be almost prohibitory, the duty on English longcloth and broadcloth being 30 per cent., and sugar 85 to 150 per cent.

Since this report was written great changes have taken place. Not only have all illegal exactions been swept away, but all transit duties through Kashmir have been abolished, and import duties have been reduced to a minimum. The cost of carriage, as well as the difficulty of procuring it, interfered greatly with trade. But in this respect the strenuous exertions of the officials, both of the British and of the Maharajah's Government, have had most beneficial results. The physical difficulties of a road which traverses eleven passes varying from 11 000 ft. to 19,000 ft. high, must always remain great ; but so far as human ingenuity and a liberal expenditure of money can effect improvement, a steady progress is made year by year by the officials of the Kashmir Government, and as is well known a comparatively easy and smooth road to Yarkund can be opened through Gilghit and over the Pamir so soon as certain political difficulties, on which I need not enlarge now, are smoothed over.

The Russians have not been backward in their endeavours to improve the communication from their side, and various plans have been suggested. The navigation of the Syr Darya was attempted, but was found to be impracticable. In the Khivan trade an effort was made to run steamers through the Aral Sea and up the Amu Darya, and in 1874 a steamer did, with the greatest difficulty, and by a roundabout route, get as far as Nukus. Mr. Schuyler tells us that explorations have been made of the old bed of the Oxus, partly with a purely scientific aim and partly to investigate the possibility of turning the waters of the rivers once more into its old channels. It has been found that a well-defined bed exists in what is called the Uzboi, debouching in the Caspian near Kradsnovodsk, and it is believed that if the dams on the Laudan were removed the water would flow along the old beds for some distance, at least as far as Sary Kamysh ; but there seems to be this difficulty in all the schemes for the improvement of navigation in Central Asia, that the amount of water in the rivers is not so great as formerly owing no doubt to the destruction of forests on the mountains on their upper course. In order to have sufficient water for navigation it would seem necessary to destroy the irrigation system, a suicidal policy, as Mr. Schuyler points out.

Mr. Schuyler tells us a good deal about the scheme for a grand Central Asiatic railway, which was brought out by M. de Lesseps. This railway it is proposed to make from Orenburg to Tashkend, and from Tashkend to Khokand and Kashgar, and thence over the Karakorun to Ladak, and so down to the Punjab. I may mention that on my return from Kashgar in 1874 I met M. Ferdinand Lesseps at Srinugger in Kashmir, and had the benefit of hearing his views on the subject. When I suggested that before committing himself to an opinion, it would be advisable for him to see something of the country, and the formidable obstacles he would have to encounter, he replied that it was beyond the scope of his journey to go so far, and he treated all the obstacles of enormous elevations, vast deserts and total want of fuel and population as purely frivolous objections. Certainly, after travelling over the Pacific Railway from San Francisco to New York, I am little disposed to say that anything is impossible, but I venture to think that the very last line that ought to be attempted, and certainly the least tempting either for passengers or traffic, is the line so boldly put forward by the successful projector of that wonder of the present age, the Suez Canal.

(*To be continued.*)

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SALES BY AUCTION.

MENESSE AND COMPANY.

AUCTION SALE of Salt Batty Land at Parell, near the B. B. and C. Railway Station.

THIS DAY, MONDAY, the 2nd April, at 4 P.M. Messrs. MENESSE & Co. will sell by Public Auction on the premises at Parell the undermentioned Salt Batty Land with the consent of the Mortgagors Dhunajee Bhanjee and Pandoorung Dhunajee, and by order of Damodur Trimbuk Nenay the mortgagee.

All that piece or parcel of Foras freehold new Salt Batty land or ground, situate at Mingoot Mandly, near the B. B. and C. I. Railway, Parell Station, in the sub-district of Mandvee, and measuring about 57246 7/9th square yards and registered in the books of the Collector of Land Revenue under Nos. 21, 29, 396, 438, 607, 620, 695, 696, 702, 703, and bounded on the east by the Salt Batty grounds of Muncherjee Camma, Damool Chimajee, Hurichund Moroba, on the west by the Salt Batty grounds of Sorabjee Jamsetjee Lalla, Govind Gungadhur, and others, on the north by the Salt Batty grounds of Cassum Dossa and Muncherjee Cama, and on the south by the Government waste ground and near the road leading to Worlee.

For further particulars and conditions of sale apply to the undersigned.

AUCTION SALE OF JUTE.

TO-MORROW, TUESDAY, the 3rd instant, at 3 P.M., Messrs. MENESSE & Co. will sell by Public Auction, at Carnac Bunder, in the British India Steam Navigation Company's godown, on account of the concerned ex s.s. Africa—

112 bales damaged jute.

MENESSE & Co.

Bombay, 2nd April 1877.

SADANUND SHRICRISTNAJEE AND Co.

AUCTION SALE OF COTTON.

Messrs S. SHRICRISTNAJEE and Co. are instructed to sell by Public Auction, THIS DAY, MONDAY, the 2nd inst., at Colaba Press Company, at 3 P.M., by order of Shaw Tockersey Jeuraj and on account and at the risk or the first purchaser Thucker Jatha Vullubjee—

16 bales full pressed cotton with iron hoops.

WEEKLY SALE.

TO-MORROW, TUESDAY, the 3rd inst., Messrs. S. SHRICRISTNAJEE & Co. will sell by Public Auction, at their Auction room at 1 P. M.:—

5 bales grey shirting.
5 ,, ,, jacconets.
1 case 100 piece bed tickets.
1 case cabin lamps.
5 bales grey dhoties.

3 cases fancy goods comprising superior cut glass, inkstand of new fashion, writing cases, superior cut decanters, albums, and music albums, walking sticks, alluminum gold watch guards, &c.

SALE OF VERY SUPERIOR AND CHOICE OILPAINTING AND OLEOGRAPHS IN FANCY GILT FRAME BY THE BEST ARTISTS.

TO-MORROW, TUESDAY, the 3rd instant, Messrs. S. SHRICRISTNAJEE and Company are instructed to sell by Public Auction at their Auction room, at 1 P. M. an invoice of oilpaintings and oleographs imported in Bombay for the first time (without reserve) the subjects are Rostock, Bay of Naples, Fisherman of Brittany, Verona, Rulurning Home, Poultry Yard, Winter in the North, Lake Gards, the First Impression, The Farm house, Dutch Port St Pierra, Venus in Wales, Cottage by the Stream, Dutch Market Place, Fruit Piece Deserts, Orange and Fig Seller, Duchess of Devonshire, In The Nursery, Coloured Pints, Cross and Flowers, Sunny Hours, various fancy pictures, plain lithograph in various frames, card vaset steel engraving in maple frames, single and double photographic frames, and other curious pictures in various frames.

S. SHRICRISTNAJEE & Co.

Bombay, 2nd April 1877.

JEHANGHIER HORMUSJEE & COMPANY, No. 12, APOLLO STREET, FORT.

AUCTION SALE of valuable jewellery, gold and silver watches, &c.

On THURSDAY, the 5th inst., at 1 P. M., Messrs. JEHANGHIER HORMUSJEE & Co. will sell by Public Auction at their auction room the following valuable jewellery, &c. belonging to Mr. Byramjee Hormusjee Watch-maker, the same consisting of silver watch chains and watch guards, Chinese, English and enamelled silver snuff boxes, silver bracelets and spectacles with pebble glass, silver brooches, thimbles, and whistles, ivory pen knives with pen and pencil, hair chains with gold links, full carved ivory broaches, English and Delhi made gold brooches and earrings crosses, gold single and double eye-glasses, English and Delhi made gold enamelled lockets, photographic book locket, silver double and single cased watches with plain and enamelled dials, silver watches, with duplex centre, second and double dial, chronometer watches, gold open and double cased watches, self winding watches, lady's enamelled watches, gold watch chains, and watch guards, Chinese tea coloured gold spectacle, gold sleeve studs and collar buttons, gold watch keys and charms of different patterns, seals, brass time pieces, American 8 days clocks and time pieces, show case, &c., &c.

The property is now on view.

On WEDNESDAY, the 4th instant, at 1 P.M., Messrs. JEHANGIER HORMUSJEE and Co. will sell by Public Auction, at their room, the following viz.:—

2 cases of best electro-plated ware of samples, consisting of table and chamber candlesticks, biscuit boxes, preserve pots, chop dishes, bread baskets, tea-services with and without trays, waiters, butter-pots, nut cracker, inkstand, &c., &c.

1 case containing sample sets of star cut glass ware.
1 case of sample plant pots suitable for drawing room.
2 music boxes playing flutes, musics, and crackers.
Few Silber's table lamps.
1 case of sample walking sticks, few fancy walking sticks, with ivory handles.
1 case of socks and stockings of different sizes.

Also a quantity of grey piece goods, such as shirting, madapollums, jacconets, dhooties, &c.

On account and at the risk of Abdool Rahaman—

E } 250 boxes tin plates.
Bombay }

AUCTION SALE of the whole of the Stock-in-Trade of Messrs. Walker & Co., Rampart Row, Fort.

On TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY, the 17th, 18th and 19th day of April next, respectively, the sale commencing precisely at 1 P. M. each day, Messrs. JEHANGEER HORMUSJEE & Co. are instructed to dispose off without reserve the stock in trade of Messrs. Walker & Co.

Full particulars will be given hereafter.

JEHANGHIER HORMUSJEE & Co.

Bombay, 2nd April 1877.

BENNETT AND COMPANY, No. 4, FORBES STREET.

LARGE and important sale of shrubs and flowering plants, at Nepean Sea Road, No. 1[illegible], Malabar Hill.

On TUESDAY, the 3rd and WEDNESDAY, the 4th April next, at 6-30 A.M. Messrs. BENNETT & Co. are instructed to sell by Public Auction at the abovementioned place, the shrubs and flowering plants, belonging to Dr. H. Cook, M.D. The list comprises a large number of rare and recently imported plants of great beauty including the largest collection of Begonias in Western India.

Catalogues are published and the plants is now on view.

AUCTION SALE of valuable collection of first-class Engravings from paintings by eminent Masters (Raphael Murillo &c.) and of choice ferns in pots, on old stumps and in wire baskets, shells, trays, &c., at Marine Lines.

On WEDNESDAY, the 4th April at 4 P.M., Messrs. BENNETT and Co. are instructed to sell at the abovementioned place the valuable collection of pictures and ferns, the property of Rev. D. C. Boyd.

The property will be on view THIS DAY, MONDAY, and TUESDAY the 2nd and 3rd April, from 7 to 9 A.M. and from 4 to 6 P.M.

Catalogues to be had on the premises or at the Auctioneer's room.

AUCTION SALE of valuable and handsome household furniture, best plated, rich crockery and glassware. A handsome French Slate, Billiard Table, Billiard Lamps, a handsome English built 4 seated roomy brougham, a pair of handsome dark bay Australian horses, set of carriage harness, &c., at Paper Currency, Fort.

On FRIDAY, the 6th instant at 1 p. m., Messrs. BENNETT and Co., are instructed to sell by Public Auction at the above mentioned place, the valuable and handsome household furniture, brougham, horses, billiard table, lamp, &c., the property of Dr. G. W. Cline.

Full particulars will be given hereafter. Catalogues will be published hereafter, and the property will be on view 4 days before the day of sale.

AUCTION SALE OF FANCY GOODS HARDWARE, &c.

On SATURDAY, the 7th instant, at 1 P. M., Messrs. BENNETT and Co. will sell by Public Auction, at their rooms, an invoice of fancy goods, hardware, etc., consisting of bag and band purses, cloth, paint, tooth and horse scrubbing brushes, syringes, pocket-books, smelling bottles, powder flasks, tin rattles, plated thimbles, Japanned cash boxes, egg-boilers, steel pens, tea bells, balances, eye-protectors, Jews harps, bulls eye lanterns, brown leather belts with studs and buckles, gilt-frame, looking glasses, tin iron sauce pans of sizes, wrought iron kettles, coffee mills, corkscrews, curry combs, brass screw-hooks, snuff-boxes, toy flutes, pen-holders, lead pencils, dog-collars, chisels, gimblets, tooth dressing and pocket-combs, gilt German silver and steel-spectacles, hand saw, ledger, day and pocket-books, tinned tacks, mouse-traps, hat and coat hooks, counter-machines, carpet slippers, fine steel spring, ivory handled table, dessert and bread knives, scissors, razors, needles, tumblers, padlocks, and chest locks, bench vices, German silver table and tea spoons, crystal crosses, scarf pins, lockets, wired dish and plate covers of sizes, deep copper scales, fancy watches, fancy rings, Albert chains, tea sets, bolts, tin-soup plates, oval trays of sizes, waiters, galvanized buckets and oval foot baths of sizes, &c.

AUCTION SALE of valuable and handsome household furniture, plated, glass, porcelain ware, plants, &c. (horses, carriages and piano, if not disposed of by private sale) at Anstey Lodge, Cumballa Hill.

On TUESDAY, the 10th April, at 1 P. M., Messrs. BENNETT and Co. are instructed to sell by Public Auction at the abovementioned place, the valuable and handsome household furniture, &c., the property of J. E. Bodger, Esq.

Catalogues will be published and the property will be on view 4 days before the day of sale.

AUCTION SALE of valuable and handsome English mahogany, walnutwood, and richly carved blackwood household furniture, best plated, rich crockery and glassware, a first-class sweet-toned mahogany semi-grand piano by "Collard and Collard," a handsome English built landau by "McNaught and Smith," a pair of handsome Australian carriage horses, &c., at Malabar Hill.

On TUESDAY, the 24th April, at 1 P. M., Messrs. BENNETT and Co. are instructed to sell by Public Auction, at the abovementioned place, the valuable and handsome English mahogany walnutwood and carved blackwood household furniture, piano, landau, horses, &c., the property of J. Rich, Esq.

Full particulars will be given hereafter. Catalogues will be published and the property will be on view 6 days before the day of sale.

Bombay, 2nd April 1877. BENNETT & Co.

WINES, SPIRITS, BEER, &c.

FOR SALE, by the Undersigned, Messrs. G. PRELLER & Co.'s CHOICE CLARETS:—

St. Julien	Qts.	Rs. 9	per doz.
Lormont	Pts.	,, 7	,,
Haut Margaux	Pts.	,, 7	,,
Chateau Belair	Pts.	,, 8	,,
Chablis and Barsac	Pts.	,, 9	,,
Haut Barsac	Qts.	,, 16	,,
BRANDY—L. Béchadés	Qts.	,, 18	,,
CHAMPAGNES—Carte Blanche, A Collin	Qts.	,, 30	,,
DUTCH VALKER BEER	Qts.	,, 4	,,

ALDRIDGE, SALMON & Co.

PRICE LIST of WINES, &c., FOR SALE at the Godowns of the Undersigned:—

CLARETS.

FROM H. AND C. BALARESQUE, BORDEAUX—

Chateau de Frands	Rs. 14	per doz. Qts.
Chateau Leoville	,, 24	,,

HOCKS.

FROM G. M. PABSTMANN SON, MAYENCE, Purveyor to H. R. H. the Prince of Wales.

Deidesheimer	Rs. 17	per doz. Qts
Geisenheimer	,, 18	,,
Liebfraumilch	,, 22	,,
Rudesheimer	,, 26	,,
Queen Victoria Berg	,, 36	,,

CHAMPAGNE.

Real Eugene Clicquot's Reims	Rs. 40	per doz. Qts.
do.	22-8	,, Pts.

BRANDY.

FROMY and ROGEE'S 3 Star COGNAC, excellent quality	Rs. 30	per doz. Qts.

BEER.

Ind. Coope and Co.'s	Rs. 5-8	per doz. Qts.
do.	,, 3-4	,, Pts.
FLOWER & SON'S BEER	,, 5	,, Qts.
Do. do.	,, 3	,, Pts.
Do. do.	,, 4	,, Pts.
SUPERIOR INDIA PALE ALE from do.	,, 5-8	,, Qts
Do. do	,, 3-8	,, Pts.
NORWEGIAN BEER, persbip Guinivere	,, 6	,,
BEST GUINNESS'S STOUT, bottled by Ed. Richardson & Co., London	,, 6	,, Qts.

Out-station Orders must be accompanied by a remittance or reference for payment in Bombay.

VOLKART BROTHERS.

Bombay, Rampart Row, Fort.

CUTLER, PALMER & CO.

BOMBAY PRICE LIST—(INCLUDING DUTY AND TOWN DUES.)

The amount of Duty and Dues on Wines, Spirits, Cordials, &c., at per case of one doz. qts. or two doz. pints is as follows:—

On Clarets and Burgundies, Rs. 2; German Still Wines, Sherries, and Ports, Rs. 3; Sparkling Wines, Rs. 5; Spirits and Cordials, Rs. 8. Town Dues, As 8 per case.

These Cash Charges we cover in our Prices by general request, but include no Profit on the Advance, nor can we take Discount off duty and dues.

BOMBAY HOUSE:—DEAN LANE, BOMBAY.
LONDON OFFICES:—5, ADELPHI TERRACE, W.C., AND 44, MARK LANE, CITY, E.C.
CALCUTTA HOUSE:—10, HARE STREET, CALCUTTA. | BORDEAUX HOUSE:—PLACE DU CHAMP DE MARS.

PATRONS.

H. M. THE QUEEN, EMPRESS OF INDIA.

THE ADMIRALTY,
OWNERS OF INDIA, CHINA AND AUSTRALIAN S.S. LINES,
THE P. & O. Co., AND THE B. I. S. N. Co. FOR SOME OF THEIR SHIPS.
Fifty Regimental Messes, and the undermentioned Club Houses, &c. &c.

THE BOMBAY.	THE ATHENÆUM.	THE CAWNPORE.	THE TIRHOOT PLANTERS.
THE REFORM.	THE HIMALAYA.	THE SIRHIND.	
THE WINDHAM.	THE NYNEE TAL.	THE TUTICORIN.	THE WESTERN INDIA

ESTABLISHED IN BORDEAUX AND LONDON IN 1815 AND IN INDIA IN 1842.

MEMO OF TERMS.

An Order for Three Cases, accompanied by Cash, carries 10 per Cent. Discount off BOND VALUE
Three months' Credit, without Discount to approved Buyers.
Special Terms to Messes, Clubs, and Co-operative Societies.
Single dozen Orders subject to 5 per Cent. for Cash off Bond Value

N. B.—Forwarding Charges we add to our rates. We guarantees each case to contain its full complement of bottles when dispatched, and agree to take back or exchange any Wine that may not be approved of on arrival but not afterwards.

☞ *N.B.—Mofussil constituents are requested, before taking delivery of their Goods, to see that the weight agrees with the Railway receipt.*

LOCAL AGENTS.

Mr. JAMES PEARSE, 22, Apollo Street, Fort.
Mr. EDULJEE PALLONJEE, Bora Bazaar Street and Mr. JAMSETJEE NOWROJEE, Poydoni.

BORDEAUX—Red.

CASH. Per 1 dozen Quarts and 2 dozen Pints. Duties Paid. Qts. Rs. A.	Pts. Rs. A.			CREDIT. Per 1 dozen Quarts and 2 dozen Pints. Duties Paid. Qts. Rs. A.	Pts. Rs. A.
31 0	33 0	CHATEAU LAFITE or MOUTON	After Dinner Wines	32 8	34 8
26 4	28 4	,, RAUZAN		27 8	29 8
23 8	25 8	,, PALMER		24 8	26 8
20 8	22 8	,, LAROSE	Dinner Wines	21 8	23 8
17 12	19 12	,, ST. JULIET		18 8	20 8
15 12	17 12	,, CANTENAC		16 8	18 8
14 0	15 12	ST. ESTEPHE, a favourite		14 8	16 8
11 8	13 8	PETIT MEDOC, excellent for Cup		12 0	14 0
11 0	...	PAUILLAC		11 8	...

CLARET IN WOOD.

CASH. 46 Gals. Hdhs. Rs. A.		CREDIT. 46 Gals. Hdhs R. A.
252 0	ST. JULIEN	273 8
216 0	CANTENAC	233 8
18 0	ST. ESTEPHE	193 8
147 8	MEDOC	157 8

Of these we keep no stock, but can import for special order.

WHITE.

Qts. Rs. A.	Pts. Rs. A.		Qts. Rs. A.	Pts. Rs. A.
22 8	24 8	HAUT SAUTERNES, delicate flavor, Red	23 8	25 8
17 12	19 12	SAUTERNE (Barsac) light, white cap	18 8	20 8

BURGUNDY—Red.

Qts. Rs. A.	Pts. Rs. A.		Qts. Rs. A.	Pts. Rs. A.
31 0	33 0	CHAMBERTIN, the *elite* of Burgundies	32 8	34 8
25 8	27 4	NUITS or CORTON, high class Wine	26 8	28 8
21 8	23 8	VOLNAY, strongly recommended	22 8	24 0
17 12	...	BEAUNE, soft delicate flavor	18 8	...
37 12	...	SPARKLING Red Burgundy	39 8	...

WHITE.

Qts. Rs. A.	Pts. Rs. A.		Qts. Rs. A.	Pts. Rs. A.
25 8	27 4	CHABLIS, La Moutonne, fine White	26 8	28 8
16 12	18 12	CHABLIS, light, pleasant Wine	17 8	19 8

SHERRIES.

We call especial attention to these—

Per doz Qts. Rs. A.			Per doz Qts. Rs. A.
36 12	AMONTILLADO A 1, rare old	gold seal	38 8
35 0	AMONTILLADO, choice and superior	black seal	36 8
26 4	MONTILLA, extra pale and very dry	black seal	27 8
27 4	AMOROSO, full flavoured soft pale	black seal	28 8
24 8	VINO PURO, very pale, dry	blue seal	25 8
23 8	OLOROSO, nutty and dry	green seal	24 8
21 8	MANZANILLA	red seal	22 8
20 12	PALE, dry medium	yellow seal	21 8
19 12	VINO DE PASTE, remarkably pale and very dry	pink seal	20 8
16 12	A GOOD DINNER WINE	white seal	17 8
16 12	MARSALA VIRGIN, pale, fine flavour	yellow seal	17 8
35 12	MADEIRA, E. I., very superior	black seal	37 8
33 0	MADEIRA, Excellent Wine	red seal	34 8

SHERRIES IN WOOD AND JARS.

4 Gals. per Jar. Rs. A.	13½ Gals. Octaves. Rs. A.	27 Gals. Quarter Cask. Rs. A.	54 Gals. Hhds. Rs. A.		4 Gals. per Jar. Rs. A.	13½ Gals. Octaves. Rs. A.	27 Gals. Quarter Cask. Rs. A.	54 Gals. Hhds. Rs. A.
68 12	212 12	416 4	823 8	Amontillado, A1	73 0	233 12	457 4	904 8
66 0	198 4	387 8	766 0	Amontillado, Black seal quality	69 0	217 12	425 4	840 8
51 12	152 8	295 12	584 4	Amoroso	54 0	166 12	323 4	638 8
42 4	124 8	245 4	472 8	Oloroso	44 0	135 12	262 4	514 8
43 4	126 4	240 12	481 8	Vino Puro	45 0	137 12	267 4	524 8
39 4	115 8	222 0	436 8	Manzanilla W	41 0	125 12	241 4	474 8
36 8	106 8	206 8	400 8	Yellow Seal W	38 0	115 12	234 4	434 8
34 8	97 8	186 12	364 8	Vino de Pasto W	36 0	105 12	202 4	394 8
32 12	83 0	158 0	308 12	White Seal	34 0	89 12	170 4	332 8

The Quarter-Casks, Octaves and Jars are very convenient for Families, and will be found most economical. Jars with Wood Taps Rs. 1½, or with Plated Taps Rs. 4 extra.

Of the 3 qualities marked W we keep stocks. But the others we only import for special orders

CHAMPAGNES.

Qts. Rs. A.	Pts. Rs. A.		Qts. Rs. A.	Pts. Rs. A.
47 8	51 4	FINEST EXTRA DRY, a Grand Wine	49 8	53 8
47 12	50 10	WACHTER'S PRINCE OF WALES' PLUME	50 0	53 0
30 4	...	Ditto ditto per hamper of 24 half-pints	31 12	...
41 12	43 8	FINE DRY SPARKLING	43 8	45 0
37 12	41 12	GOOD SPARKLING (Star)	39 8	43 8
31 4	...	CARTE BLANCHE (Sibadey's) light particularly dry	32 8	...
22 12	...	CARTE ROUGE	23 8	...

SPARKLING GERMAN WINES.

Qts. Rs. A.	Pts. Rs. A.		Qts. Rs. A.	Pts. Rs. A.
42 8	44 8	HOCK, NONPAREIL, extra quality, medium dry	44 8	46 8
33 0	35 0	HOCK, MUSCATEL, very choice	34 8	36 8
28 4	...	,, EXCELLENT WINE	29 8	...
42 8	44 8	MOSELLE NONPAREIL (extra quality)	44 8	46 8
33 0	35 0	MOSELLE MUSCATEL (very choice)	34 8	36 8
28 4	...	MOSELLE, excellent Wine	29 8	...

STILL GERMAN WINES.

Qts. Rs. A.	Pts. Rs. A.		Qts. Rs. A.	Pts. Rs. A.
46 4	48 4	HOCK JOHANNISBERGER, superior	48 8	50 8
38 12	...	,, MARCOBRUNNER	40 8	..
34 0	...	LIEBFRAUMILCH	35 8	...
29 4	31 0	HOCK RUDESHEIMER, MELLOW	30 8	32 8
24 8	26 4	,, HOCHHEIMER, fine flavored	25 8	27 8
18 12	21 8	,, LAUBENHEIMER, light refreshing	19 8	22 8
25 8	27 4	RED HOCK ASSMANHAUSER	26 8	28 8
29 4	...	STEIN-WEIN in BOCKSBEUTEL	30 8	...
29 4	31 0	MOSELLE, BRAUNBERGER, delicate	30 8	32 8

PORTS.

Qts. Rs. A.	Pts. Rs. A.		Qts. Rs. A.	Pts. Rs. A.
35 12	...	OLD CRUSTED, very choice (some years in bottle)	37 8	...
26 4	28 4	INVALID'S full-bodied gold Capsule	27 8	29 8
22 8	24 8	DESSERT WINE, superior Black seal	23 8	25 8
18 12	20 12	A GOOD SOUND FULL WINE, red seal	19 8	21 8
22 8	...	SACRAMENTAL WINE	23 8	...

PORTS IN WOOD.

Per Octave. Rs. A.	Per Quarter Cask Rs. A.	Per Hhd. Rs. A.		Per Octave. Rs. A.	Per Quarter Cask Rs. A.	Per Hhd. Rs. A.
99 4	186 0	359 4	Port, red seal	107 12	201 4	388 8
109 4	207 8	404 4	,, black seal	118 12	225 4	438 8
131 12	254 4	497 12	Invalid's quality	143 12	277 4	542 8

These we import for special orders only.

COGNAC.

Our duty paid Prices are:—

Per dozen. Rs. A.			Per Dozen Rs. A.
24 12	P.C. *	Blue Capsule, a capital peg brandy	25 8
13 4	Do.	in Flasks	13 12
8 0	Do.	Half flasks	8 4
26 8	P.C. **	White Capsule, delicate flavor	27 8
14 4	Do.	do. In Flasks ,, ,,	14 12
30 8	S.O.P. ***	Yellow Capsule, fine old, soft pale	31 8
16 4	Do.	do. In Flasks	16 12
34 4	V.S.O.P. ****	Black Capsule, old pale, the finest imported	35 8
18 0	Do.	do. In Flasks	18 12
43 12		BLACK CAP, extra superior rare old	45 8
21 12		RUM, the finest old Jamaica	22 0
24 12		RUM, the finest old Jamaica Rum extra quality	25 8
19 1		Do. fine "Pineapple"	20 0
21 12		GIN, London Old Tom, first quality	22 8
21 12		FIELD'S GIN	22 8
22 12		WHISKY, Irish and Scotch, fine, old pure	23 8
24 12		WHISKY SCOTCH, Fine old Pure extra quality	25 8
17 8		GENEVA, in flasks, the best	18 0
15 12		SCHNAPPS SCHIEDAM AROMATIC ANTI-DYSPEPTIC CORDIAL	16 0

COGNAC IN WOOD.

Per Gal without Jar. Rs. A.		Per Gal without Jar. Rs. A.
13 12	COGNAC, No. ****	14 4
12 0	,, ,, ***	12 4
10 0	,, ,, **	10 4
9 8	,, ,, *	9 12

The Jars can be returned for refilling. We keep stocks of bright Sherries and Cognacs in wood. An allowance of price for the Jar will be made, deducting all outlay for carriage to godown.

Empty Jar for	Ditto	1 Gal.	Rs. 2 0	Each.
Do. do.	do.	2 ,,	,, 3 0	,,
Do. do.	do.	4 ,,	,, 4 0	,,

Wood Taps Rs. 1-8 each. Plated Taps Rs. 4 each.

LIQUEURS.

Qts. Rs. A.	Pts. Rs. A.		Qts. Rs. A.	Pts. Rs. A.
46 8	48 8	CURACAO, Amsterdam, Orange and White	48 8	50 8
7 12	...	CHARTREUSE GREEN per Bottle	8 0	...
6 8	...	Do. YELLOW ,,	6 12	...
50 4	54 4	MARASCHINO DE ZARA best	52 8	56 8
46 8	...	NOYEAU best	48 0	...
37 0	39 0	CHERRY BRANDY, best Copenhagen	38	40 8
19 12	...	ORANGE BITTERS	20 8	...
29 4	...	"KILL THE CROW" BITTERS	30 8	...
...	27 0	ASSORTED LIQUEURES, CHOICE	...	28 4

March 1st, 1877.

MILLINERY ESTABLISHMENT.

MRS. LAKE,

MILLINER, DRESS MAKER, SILK-MERCER, LADIES' OUTFITTER, &c.

HAS JUST RECEIVED a splendid assortment of "New Goods" for the Season, a few of which are mentioned below.

Paris Bonnets.
Paris Hats, Trimmed.
Rink Hats.
Gainsborough Hats.
Feathers and Flowers, in great variety.
Rich Silks, Satins, Gauzes.
Parasols and Fans.
The new Rink Collar and Cuffs.
Rich Lace Pocket Handkerchiefs.
Ball Dresses in every material and newest Colours.
The New Lace Fischu.
Infants' Hoods and Cloaks.
Fancy Solitaires and Sleeve Links for Ladies.
Fancy Velvet side Pockets.
Fancy Neck Ties.

SUPERIOR KID GLOVES FOR LADIES—2, 3 AND 4 BUTTONED.
SUPERIOR KID GLOVES FOR GENTLEMEN.

UXBRIDGE HOUSE,
No. 7, CHURCH GATE STREET, BOMBAY.

NOTICE.

REDUCTION IN PRICE.

APOLLINARIS WATER.

Arrangements have now been made by which this celebrated Water can be had at the following reduced prices:—

CASK, containing	8 dozen	Pints	Rs. 16 0
,, ,,	6 ,,	Quarts	,, 18 0
,, ,,	4 ,,	,,	,, 13 0

APOLLINARIS
A NATURAL MINERAL WATER.
PURE, NATURAL, EFFERVESCING WATER
FROM THE APOLLINARIS BRUNNEN.

APOLLINARIS WATER.—THE QUEEN OF TABLE WATERS.—"A great boon to all, but especially suited by its absolute purity and mild alkalinity to ward off the most fatal diseases of TROPICAL CLIMATES."—*British Medical Journal.*

"Possesses organic purity in the highest degree, wholly charged with its own Natural Gas. The production of the spring is equivalent to 40,000,000 of quart bottles per annum."—J. A. WANKLYN, V. Pres. of the Society of Public Analysts, &c., &c.

APOLLINARIS WATER.—"FAR SUPERIOR TO ORDINARY MANUFACTURED AERATED WATERS."—*Medical Times.*

APOLLINARIS WATER.—"The favoured drink of the favoured classes. The fashion in the Clubs, and universally recommended as a pure, refreshing drinking water by the Medical Profession. Especially suited moreover for Tropical Climates."—*London Medical Record.*

"APOLLINARIS WATER has rapidly attained a great and well-deserved popularity in England. Particularly valuable to Indians having or fearing a touch of liver or disordered digestion."—*Practitioner.*

APOLLINARIS WATER.—Inspector General Macpherson, M.D., late H. M. Indian Army, author of "Baths and Wells," &c., writes: "The advantage of Apollinaris Water is THE CERTAINTY OF ITS PURITY. In India it is difficult even with every care to obtain water for the manufacture of Soda Water that is free from impurities. THE APOLLINARIS WATER OUGHT TO BE A GREAT BOON TO INDIA."

Professor Macnamara, late Prof. University of Calcutta, &c., writes: "Soda Water in India is frequently polluted with drainage and organic impurities, which are the direct cause of cholera, typhus and dysentery. Apollinaris is absolutely pure. I STRONGLY ADVISE INDIAN RESIDENTS TO DRINK IT. IT IS FAR MORE REFRESHING AND WHOLESOME THAN SODA WATER."

Consumers can now be supplied with Apollinaris Water in Soda Water Bottles which can readily be sold when empty. They are cautioned to see that Bottles have SMITH, BILSBOUGH & Co.'s name on the Label, otherwise they may purchase water not properly bottled for export.

OF ALL RESPECTABLE CHEMISTS AND DEALERS.

Descriptive Pamphlets, with analyses, Prices, &c., on application to Agents:—

CUTLER, PALMER & Co., BOMBAY.

FELT HATS AND HELMETS.

THORPE & Co. have just OPENED a LARGE SHIPMENT for the present Season.

FELT HATS.

	Rs. a.
The Duke, New low Round Crown	7 0
Ditto ditto Extra Quality	8 0
Black Felt, medium height, Square Crown	8 0
Ditto ditto Round Crown	8 0
Soft Black Felt, Round Crown	8 0
Brown Felt, Fashionable Round Crown	8 0
Drab Felt, ditto ditto	8 0
Soft Crown, Black and Drab	7 8
Drab Soft High Crown	8 0
Black and Drab Soft Travelling Hats	8 0
Tweed Travelling Hats, in great variety, 2-8 to	5 8
Drab Shell Hats	10 0
Black Silk Dress	13 8

HELMETS.

	Rs. a.
Hawk's Regulation, best quality, covered white Doe	20 0
The New Spike for Infantry	7 0
Spike and Plate for Staff and Cavalry	10 0
Gilt Chin Chains	6 0
Ellwood's Helmets, White	13 0
Ellwood's White Hunting Helmets	13 8
Ellwood's Shikar Hat, covered Flax	13 8
Ellwood's Patent Air-Chamber Felt Helmets, a sure protection against sunstroke	18 0
Christy's Drab Felt Helmets	10 0
Light Drab Felt Helmets for Lady or Gentleman	10 0
Light Helmets with extra Band	10 0
Drab Felt Milton Hats ...6-8 to	8 0

LESS 10 PER CENT FOR CASH.

THORPE AND COMPANY,

CIVIL, NAVAL AND MILITARY TAILORS,
MEADOW STREET, FORT, BOMBAY.

DHUNJEEBHOY RUSTOMJEE AND COMPANY.

39, MEADOW STREET, BOMBAY.

All quotations subject to the fluctuations of the Market.

PALE ALE AND STOUT.

	Per Doz. Rs. a.
Bass' Beer, in Quarts, by Stone. 5-8 to	5 12
,, Pints ...3-8 to	3 12
Our Own, in Quarts	5 0
,, Pints	3 0
Guinness's Stout, in Quarts ...5-8 to	5 12
,, Pints ...3-8 to	3 12

SHERRY WINE.

Pale or Golden	16 0
,, Fine	20 0
,, Very Fine	22 0
Amontillado	24 0
Vin De Pasto	24 0

CLARET.

Breakfast	10 0
Do. in pints	6 0
Dinner	14 0
After Dinner	18 0
Do.	7 0
Chateau la Rose, in Quarts	18 0
Chateau Laffite	32 0

CHAMPAGNE AND HOCK.

	Per Doz. Rs. a.
F. Giesler & Co., Quarts	48 0
,, Pints	25 0
De St. Marceaux, Quarts	48 0
,, Pint	25 0
Jules Mumm & Co., Quarts	40 0
,, Pints	21 0
Best Dry, in Quarts	30 0
,, Pints	16 0
Hock "Still," very fine...18, 20, 22 and	24 0
,, in Pints ...Rs. 12 and	14 0

BRANDY.

Exshaw ...Rs. 22 and	36 0
Hennessy and Co ... Rs. 26½, 30 and	33 0
Planat and Co	30 0
J. Denis Mounie and Co.	26 0
Jules Robin and Co	22 0
J. and F. Martel	27 0
Penet Castillion & Co.	22 0
C. Dennehy ...Rs. 21, 23 and	25 0
Lower qualities from	15 0
Cherry Brandy ...Rs. 12 and	15 0

SPIRITS AND LIQUEURS.

	Per Doz. Rs. a.
Whiskey, Kenahan's, L.L.	22 0
Whiskey, by Crabbie	18 0
Jamaica Rum do.	20 0
Old Tom, by S. Boord	16 0
Do. Booth & Sons	17 0
Do. Vaughan Jones	17 0
Do. C. Gordon and Co.	17 0
Gin Square bottles	23 0
Orange Bitters	17 0
Spirit of Wine	15 0
Brandy Bitters	12 0
Vermouth	14 0
Ginger Wine, by Crabbie & Gordon.	15 0
Curacao, Quarts ...Rs. 30 and	36 0
Do Pints ...Rs. 20 and	24 0
Noyeau, Vanille, Anisette and Rose ...Rs. 18 and	24 0

PORT WINE.

One Grape	15 0
Old Draught	18 0
Old Bottled Invalid's Wine	24

OILMAN'S STORES by Crosse and Blackwell and others.

Also, CUTLER, PALMER'S AND C. BOUNVIALLE'S WINES at their Prices.

BEST LONDON MADE

OVERLAND TRUNKS,

BAGS, AND PORTMANTEAUS.

ASQUITH & CO.'S stock of the above is one of the LARGEST in the EAST.

Our Trunks are strongly made under the supervision of Practical Tradesmen to stand the rough usage in transit by Land or Sea.

Our BAGS are made of REAL oxhide and not of the imitation or "Bag Hide" now so generally offered to the Public.

	Inches.	Prices.
GENT'S OVERLAND TRUNKS—Best Japanned Canvas, with strong Brass Locks. The Correct Cabin Height	27 30 33 36	27 0 30 0 33 0 36 0
Extra Quality—Stout dull Canvas, Edges bound with Leather. The strongest and best Trunk made, highly recommended for Cabin use	30 33 36	36 0 39 0 42 0
TRAYS to fit the above ...from	..	3 8
LADIES' OVERLAND TRUNKS—Fitted with Tray, upper Dress Compartment, and Moveable Millinery Division	33 36	50 0 58 0
"The Railway" Indian Portmanteau Covered with Tan Canvas, very strong and durable, fitted with outside Straps, for Coat or Rug, strong Brass Lever Lock. We recommend this article for Continental Travelling or hardwear	22 24 26 30	28 0 31 0 34 0 41 0
BEST SOLID LEATHER—Fitted and finished as above in all details	24 26	48 0 52 0
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